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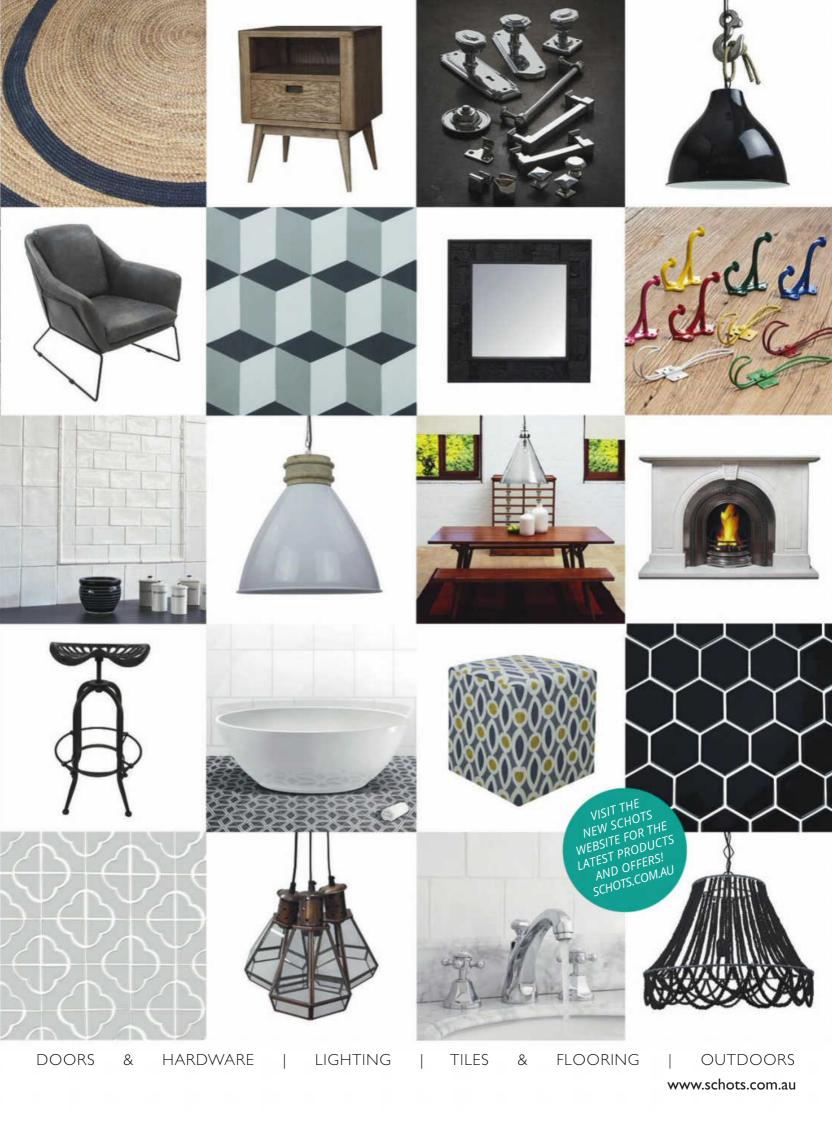
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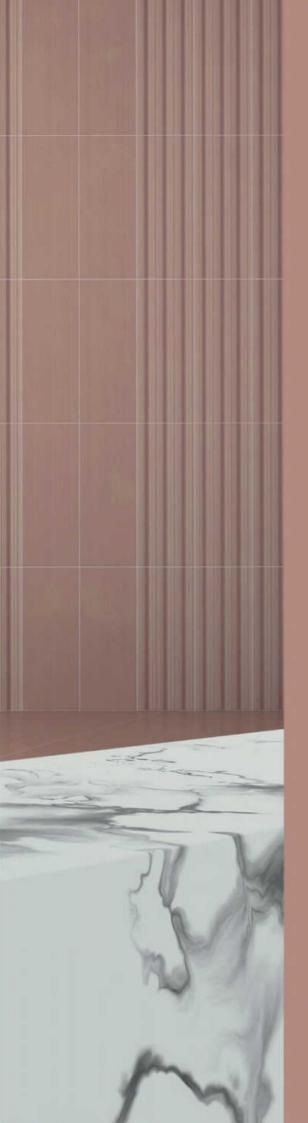
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"Winter, it's over. I've found my soulmate... spring"

id I tell you I bought a summer house? No, not an extra cottage to hang out and sip chilled rosé in when the weather is spiffy (although that would be ideal). I mean, I bought a place that is brilliant in summer, but the complete opposite in winter.

Over the winter months, my much-loved new home morphed into a veritable ice cave (and I can assure you, it turned me into an ice queen) at least it was the right colour. Of course, I also played a solid role in that. Having ripped up the carpets as soon as I moved in, I effectively removed all the floor insulation, meaning the breeze I loved in summer now rolls up through the gappy floorboards like the roaring forties. And as for window treatments, I'm not a massive fan the back area of my place is a bit like a conservatory, with gorgeous little windowpanes that would be ruined if they were covered with curtains or blinds. I decided it would be much better to keep it lovely and bright and completely freezing.

Anyway, the point is, I'm really happy to see the back of winter this year! Spring, I love you! It just gets the happy vibes going to see the first of the new growth of plants on my balcony.

In this issue, from page 139, we've extended our 'Out' section to give you 14 pages of great solutions for your outdoor areas. This time of year also makes me want to fill my home with fragrant blooms, and if you are keen to take it a step further, you can invite the best of this season's floral patterns into your home flick over to page 62 for inspiration.

Lastly, if you're a serial bruncher (see what I did there?), turn to page 154 for a take on easy brekkie style from one of my favourite venues it'll be perfect for when you're entertaining at home in your new garden!



Subscribe for only \$69.95 for 12 issues and you'll also receive a bonus cushion! Turn to page 70 for details.



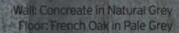
the winner!

Drum roll please... We're so excited to announce the winner of our 2015 Search for a Stylist competition, in conjunction with TheHome. com.au, is Dani Butchart. Congrats Dani!



WRITE IN TO WIN You could win a 'Siirtolapuutarha' set from Marimekko - containing a teapot, jug, four coffee cups and tray - valued at \$389. Visit marimekko.com for a look. TO ENTER Tell us, in 25 words or fewer, who you would invite over for afternoon tea and why? Send entries (with your contact details) to 'Inside Out Marimekko' competition, Locked Bag 5030, Alexandria NSW 2015 or email insideout@newsltd.com.au.





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in this issue It's all about spring! Usher in a fresh feel to your home with styling tips, reno advice, bright colour and vibrant natural touches

out: gardens

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stage of a garden rework, check out these four top designs

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our cover look

Bedlinen, Kip & Co, kipandco.net.au.
Sequin cushion, Moss Grotto,
mossgrotto.blogspot.com.au. Merci
Perci planter, Greenhouse Interiors,
greenhouseinteriors.com.au. Plant,
Pippi's Plants, pippisplants.com. Abigail
Ahern pineapple wall sconce, Fenton
& Fenton, fentonandfenton.com.au.
Moroccan rug, Society Of Wanderers,
societyofwanderers.com.

Photography: Armelle Habib Styling: Julia Green



The Kartell Complete Packages collection are designed to suit the many different ways we like to live at home. Developed for living, dining, bathroom, office, and outdoor areas too, each furniture package is a curated collection of the best pieces from the Kartell range.

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renovation tips

No matter what stage you're at with your reno - from planning to the finishing touches - you'll find expert advice, inspiring images and hard-won wisdom from fellow renovators.

product guides

Jump into our shop section for a gallery of the latest stylish armchairs hitting the market; plus lots more great options for retail therapy.

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#iohideandseat

Do you love a puzzle? Just for a bit of fun, it's the interiors version of Where's Wally? with mini iconic designer chairs. Can you find the one hidden on our website? Share a shot on Instagram, tag @insideoutmag and use the hashtag #iohideandseat to show us where you spotted it!



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Mrs Raccoon might be our cutest reader - thanks @little.linzi for including us in #maddiesdollhousereno (a great project featured in our July issue). We'd love to see your Instagrams! Our hashtag is #insideoutmag.

tweet alert

We're looking forward to John Wardle Architects' upcoming outdoor installation for @NGVMelbourne. It opens Sept 15.



Enjoyed our 'Light & Dark' story on page 94? See more images from this feature on a modern Melbourne

feature on a modern Melbourne apartment on our site. Styling by Deb McLean. Photography by Colin Doswell.

out and about with *Inside Out*



A lovely display at the **@circahome** re-launch event.



Soft neutrals, texture and colour on show at the **@kasaustralia** spring/summer showing.



Homewares heaven at the @mark_tuckey + @cottonon collaboration launch.



A shot of colour from our managing editor **@leetranlam**'s bookshelf.

INSIDE

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DEPUTY ART DIRECTOR Crystal Osborn

DESIGNER Liana Hakim
ONLINE PRODUCER Trisha Mee
MARKET EDITOR Joseph Gardner

EDITORIAL COORDINATOR Belinda Kemp (02) 8045 4850

Advertising Sales and Strategy

COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR Sev Celik

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SALES AND STRATEGY DIRECTOR, PREMIUM LIVING Milena Hopkins

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PREMIUM LIVING KEY ACCOUNT MANAGERS Analise Gattellaro (O2) 8045 4656, Heather Jarvis (O2) 8045 4739

SALES AND STRATEGY ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE, PREMIUM LIVING Emily Hall (02) 8045 4649
VIC SALES DIRECTOR, PREMIUM LIVING Kim Carollo (03) 9292 3204
VIC GROUP SALES DIRECTOR, PREMIUM LIVING Astrid White (03) 9292 3222
VIC PREMIUM LIVING KEY ACCOUNT MANAGERS Emily Bennett (03) 9292 2781,
Emma Jeffs (03) 9292 1264

VIC ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE, PREMIUM LIVING Tara Cook (03) 9292 3214

QLD, SA & WA SALES DIRECTOR, PREMIUM LIVING Rose Wegner (07) 3666 6903

ASIA ADVERTISING Kim Kenchington, MediaWorks, Asia (852) 2886 1106

CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISING Rebecca White 1300 139 305

ADVERTISING CREATIVE DIRECTOR Richard McAuliffe
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ADVERTISING SENIOR ART DIRECTOR Bev Douglas
ADVERTISING COPY EDITORS Annette Farnsworth, Brooke Lewis
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Production

NATIONAL PRINT SERVICES MANAGER Mark Moes PRODUCTION MANAGER Leanne George (O2) 8045 4921 ADVERTISING PRODUCTION COORDINATOR Katie Nagy (O2) 8045 4923

Publishing

MARKETING DIRECTOR Diana Kay
MARKETING MANAGER Zoe Meere
BRAND MANAGER Renee Gangemi
EVENTS MANAGER Danielle Kacen

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 Email insideout@newsltd.com.au Website: insideout.com.au

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things we love



digital beauty Simple shapes and pretty shades are a perfect match in Kimmy Hogan's art

Whether it's dotted patterns, organic forms or a play on dimension, the artwork by Geelong-based digital artist Kimmy Hogan demands a double or triple take in the sweetest possible way. Her works have a hand-drawn feel despite Kimmy using "customised digital brushes". "My latest two collections are greatly influenced by my love of oil paintings," says Kimmy. These joyful prints are ideal for a sunny and inviting living space. Flat Lay IV limited-edition print, from \$125 (unframed), Kimmy Hogan, kimmyhogan.com.au.



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what's on our radar

Discover each month what's hot, what's on its way out and what designs continue to endure and inspire



THE COOLEST THING WE'VE SEEN LATELY



Drew Heath Architects' Nikki Maloney's renovation cleverly reuses 30 per cent of the original home's materials. The strip of decorative tiling is one of many resourceful details from this NSW Architecture Award winner.

Karen McCartney's 'Superhouse' exhibition shows at Museum of Sydney until November 29, *sydneylivingmuseums.com.au.*

TRENDING

What's in... perforated

looks is making an elegant By Moroso 'Perf' cabinet, from \$3475, Hub Furniture, hubfurniture.com.au.



On its way out

For a moment, everything was in a colour scheme that graduated from light to dark - but now this trend is fading fast.

CULT CLASSIC

ALESSI '9093' KETTLE BY MICHAEL GRAVES

The form: A conical shaped kettle in polished stainless steel with a whistle in the shape of a flying bird. What makes it special: Michael Graves, an American postmodern architect and designer, died earlier this year at the age of 80. His influence started during the early '70s with buildings such as the Snyderman House in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and his controversial Portland Building in Oregon in 1982. Equally at home with product design, Graves created more than 150 items for the Italian homewares company Alessi over his career, with his 1985 "whistling kettle" being a bestseller for the past 30 years (it was actually Alessi's top seller for 15 years and still ranks in the top 10). It's the hero of a collection that includes a pepper mill, salt shaker, kitchen timer, milk jug, sugar bowl, water pitcher, teapot and tray all of which contain the signature colour accents in grey blue and claret. The forms revolve around the combination of geometric shapes: cones, cylinders and spheres, but this theme is softened by lyrical elements a bird in the case of the kettle and oversized wing nuts on the pepper mill and timer. More than 1.5 million '9093' kettles have been sold to date.

Expect to pay: \$260. Buy at: Selected David Jones stores (davidjones.com.au), selected specialty stores, and store.alessi.com.

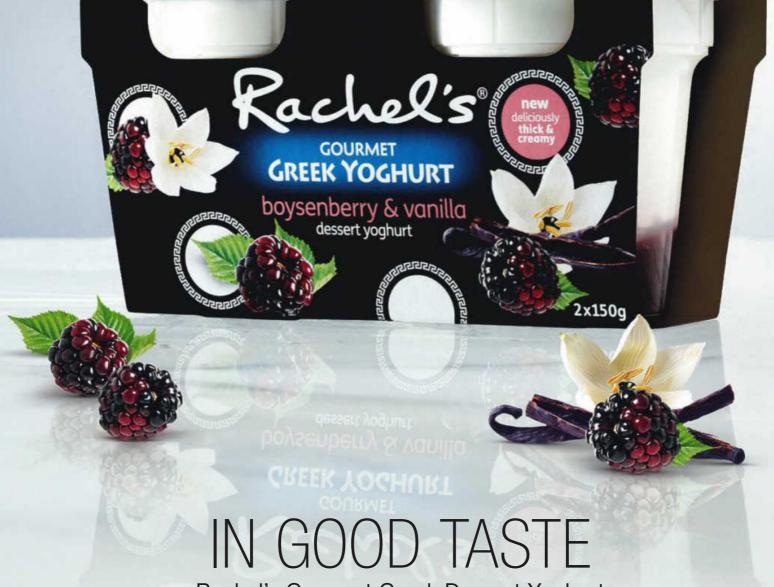


Sydney residents eat at the table, while 4% of people dine in the bathroom daily!

According to the 'Life At Home' report by IKEA, ikea.com.au







Rachel's Gourmet Greek Dessert Yoghurt

Combining thick, creamy yoghurt with on-trend flavours like boysenberry and vanilla, Rachel's Gourmet Greek Dessert Yoghurt is created for lovers of fine food. Try our other taste sensations – sophisticated salted caramel and smooth butterscotch and vanilla bean.









3 OF A KIND

pendant lights

If you're in the market for feature lighting, try one of these statement designer pieces EDITED BY MATILDA DUFFECY







'Me Too' pendant light Designer: Paul Townsin

"Concrete is like a living being," says Paul, who undertakes a 'hands-on' process to create this lamp. With a hand-cast concrete shade and cold-rolled steel frame, 'Me Too' represents fine craftsmanship and smart design. The light started life as a floor and table lamp and Paul smitten with the combination of porous concrete and a warm glow toiled to perfect his creation. "The concrete is hand mixed to a ratio that took me two years to get right," says the Adelaide designer. "The moment you relax with the concrete, it throws your efforts back in your face but the best part of the concrete is its blemishes." Every 'Me Too' pendant lamp features unique pores and veins, which the light reveals and illuminates. "Each light has its own individuality, which I really love," says Paul. \$627, paultownsin.com.au.



Designers: Nelliana van den Baard and Kenneth Veenenbos of Studio Snowpuppe (studiosnowpuppe.nl)

Nature is at the heart of this creation by Hague-based architect Nelliana and industrial designer Kenneth, who draw inspiration from "flowers and butterflies". The sculptural form of this lamp contrasts with its paper make up, which diffuses a soft light when lit. While mostly handmade, the duo receives a little extra help. "The fold lines are pressed in the paper with a machine, and then the actual folding of the paper is done by hand," says Nelliana. It's not all origami, though, as paper presents its own challenges: "In winter, sometimes the air is too dry, which makes it impossible to fold without damaging the paper." But then all moths start life within a cocoon before stretching their wings. \$255, Paper Empire, paperempire.com.au.



'Up-Down'
pendant light
Designer: Jonathan Ben-Tovim
of Ben-Tovim Design

The striking quality of Jonathan's design ensures that 'Up-Down' was born to be a star element. With its sculptural presence, this piece leaves a lasting impression thanks to its gleaming shade and unique obsidian volcanic glass counterweight. The Melbourne-based designer approached this light with flexibility in mind, so that materials and finishes can be adapted to fit the user's needs. "I've just been asked to create a version with a cast brass bone as the counterweight." says Jonathan. Electroplating can be credited for the copper shade's eye-catching sparkle. "It takes a lot of polishing and careful handling before a clear protective coat is applied it can be fiddly not to get the shade grubby with fingermarks!" \$950, b-td.com.



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What inspired you to start your blog? A few years ago, a friend asked me the killer question: "what would you do if you could do anything at all?" I replied that I'd travel the world asking people about their routines. I soon found myself abroad, interning at a creative agency and having inspiring conversations with artists about their lives. When I returned to Melbourne, I started the blog as a way to keep having those conversations and have an excuse to be nosey.

Where do you update your blog?

I'm based in Melbourne and have a desk at home. I'm surrounded by books including my bible *Daily Rituals: How Artists Work* by Mason Currey and a stack of planners: my day-to-day Mi Goals diary, a weekly Kikki.K desk planner, and a giant monthly planner.





What's something surprising you've discovered from talking to people? Talking about the mundane really humbles people. I conducted live interviews for the Emerging Writers' Festival and was lucky enough to chat to author John Marsden. Finding out he skips a proper breakfast and grabs a donut and a lamington on the way to work made it a lot less nerve-racking to interview Australia's master storyteller!



extraordinary routines

THE STATS What: Extraordinary Routines **Who:** Madeleine Dore, writer and schedule-watcher

Where: extraordinaryroutines.com **Started:** 2014 **You'll find:** Interviews with creatives from taxidermist Julia deVille to designer Beci Orpin and foodie entrepreneur Raph Rashid – about how they spend their days.



Having covered people's routines, have you been inspired to pick up certain rituals? Early risers fascinate me, but personally I'm yet to master my morning routine! I love writing lists but when I interviewed entrepreneur James Tutton of Smiling Mind, he mentioned that he has stopped keeping lists and instead trusts his memory. I can see the adverse effect compulsively jotting down every errand can have on our brain, so I'm trying to wean myself off my beloved to-do lists!

Having lived through people's routines for your blog, is there anyone you'd like to be for a day – and why?

I'd like to be a postman. Being extraordinary isn't defined by jet-setting or owning a creative business it's what you do with the ordinary that makes you interesting.



Who has had the most 'extraordinary' routine you've come across? I met jeweller and taxidermist Julia deVille at an interesting time in her life she was recovering from adrenal fatigue and following a strict regimen. Everything from her diet and meditation practice, to how she was balancing her social life was intriguing.













The Other Art Fair & Sydney Contemporary

Make room on your walls: there are two big art events taking over Sydney in September









Emilya Colliver, director of The Other Art Fair
This is the Sydney debut for The Other Art Fair, which has previously been held in London and Bristol. What makes it stand out? It's an artist-led fair for emerging, self-represented talent. This is our main point of difference; artists will be selling

direct to the public. Having the creator there to explain to a potential buyer the meaning behind the work makes for a very interesting and engaging conversation.

Is Instagram changing art? It makes everything so much more accessible, for both the artists and the public. It invites people to experience some intimate moments that otherwise wouldn't be so easily available for example, an artist working in their studio. **What's your advice for first-time art buyers?** Start small, but go with your gut. Put away \$200, \$500, \$1000 for an original piece. If you buy what you love, you can't go wrong.

What should people look out for when buying art for their home? I really like supporting many different artists, especially emerging ones having a wall with lots of different artworks is really trending at the moment. Come to the art fair and buy five smaller artworks and cluster them or buy one big wow piece. The Other Art Fair, sydneytheotherartfair.com.



Barry Keldoulis, director of Sydney Contemporary
Sydney Contemporary features work from all over the world. What's the most far-flung gallery included or most unlikely group of artists featured?
Ingleby Gallery is a blue-chip gallery in Edinburgh, which is probably diametrically

opposite to Sydney! The most unlikely artists would be from Studio ARTISTS, a not-for-profit organisation offering programs to adults with disabilities; they have made some amazing work.

What's the most unlikely way you've come across an artist's work? I did once discover an artist by stepping out my front door, where I found a work attached to my letterbox!

Do you use Instagram to find artists? One of the reasons art fairs are successful is that good art needs to be seen in the flesh to be fully appreciated. I am an avid Instagrammer, but I'm yet to discover an artist through Instagram.

What's your advice for choosing art for a home? I have a Fiona Lowry work in my bedroom that I love, but on first viewing I found it very challenging. I would encourage people to buy the work that they not only love at first sight but that they also find challenging. This maintains your interest over time. Sydney Contemporary, sydneycontemporary.com.au.



Both fairs take place in Sydney from September 10-13.



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What are your tips on how to choose and style occasional chairs in a living room? @stacey1906 via Instagram

"Think about basic design elements like line, height and shape and how they work with your surrounds," says Monica Ramirez, marketing

coordinator at Great Dane.

"The Hans Wegner 'J16' Rocking Chair (\$3150, greatdanefurniture. com) is one of our favourite pieces. In the cooler months,

a reindeer hide can transform the classic spindleback design into the perfect nook." When clustering occasional chairs, try designs with smaller frames and lower heights, such as the 'ND 83' easy chair by Nanna Ditzel (below, from \$3980, greatdanefurniture.com).



ask an expert

Each issue, we'll find stylish solutions to all your decorating and design dilemmas from those in the know



Joseph Gardner is our market editor and resident expert at highlighting great products and trends. You can see his picks of the best rocking chairs on page 35.

Should I go with a round dining table or a rectangular one? Tama via email

Consider how many people you wish to seat at the table. A circular table is a good solution for small spaces and squeezing in some extra

place settings is easier, because it has no sharp corners (this is also a benefit for homes with kids). I'd suggest a round design with a pedestal base, such as the Karimoku New Standard 'Colour Wood' table (right, \$2750, stylecraft.com.au), for extra leg room. With larger round tables,

reaching the centre for food can be difficult, so a circular shape is better suited to smaller, more intimate gatherings. If you like to throw larger-scale dinner parties, look at a rectangular option such as the 'Scandinavian' dining table from Harpers Project (left, \$1599, harpersproject.com).

What's the best way to store shoes and toys in the hallway? Ellen via email

To avoid items winding up on the ground, set baskets along the floor to collect toys, balls and shoes, suggests Helen Longford, storage expert at IKEA. "The Ekby Järpen/Ekby Håll' wall shelf (\$34.99, ikea.com.

au) and 'Dröna' boxes (\$4.99, ikea.com.au) will allow children access to their toys when placed down low, and most importantly, they have an easy place to drop off or pick up toys and shoes

before heading out the door." Try the multi-tasking 'Tjusig' bench (\$99, ikea.com.au), which provides a seat for putting on shoes which you can store underneath. You can pair it with the 'Tjusig' bench hanger (pictured, \$14.99, ikea.com.au) for coats and hats, too.

I'm changing from curtains to a blockout blind with sheers for the bedroom. What's the ideal colour combo? I'm concerned white on white may be too 'bright'.

@bekkles77 via Instagram "Bedrooms are restful and

romantic, so white on white can be a bit cold and clinical," says Jenny Brown, National Marketing Manager, Luxaflex. She recommends neutral palettes (ranging from earthy tones to dark charcoal shades in subtle textured finishes), with yarns that catch the light and create an opulent feel. "The Luxaflex 'Telopea', 'Mauritius' and 'Temple' blockout fabrics in Roller Blinds (POA, luxaflex.com.au) can be teamed with a complementary sheer to create the look you're after. Motorised control on a custom-made roller blind is the ideal choice for a bedroom."



SPRING IS IN THE AIR AND IT'S THE PERFECT TIME TO GIVE YOUR BEDROOM A FASHION-FORWARD MAKEOVER WITH BRITISH PAINTS

Whether you're a first-time decorator or an experienced renovator, paint is your best friend. Here, British Paints 'Clean & Protect' Pink Bliss is paired with Love Note to give this bedroom a soft, serene backdrop. For a similar look, try painting a side table in British Paints Metal Links to tie in the room's darker tones. British Paints' 'Clean & Protect' range gives a beautiful, resilient finish that can be wiped clean time after time. Ideal for bedrooms, the low-odour formulation contains UltraProtect technology to provide protection against mould, mildew and bacteria. A beautiful wash of colour is a simple way to transform a room; visit the British Paints website and be inspired by the prettiest palettes, easy-to-follow expert advice and DIY projects.





British Paints Pink Bliss

British Paints Love Note British Paints Metal Links

British Paints

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BEST BUYS

dollhouses

Play dates take a stylish turn with one of these fun petite homes, guaranteed to keep your kids entertained for hours

STYLING JESSICA HANSON PHOTOGRAPHY SAM MCADAM-COOPER ILLUSTRATION GRACE LEE







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3 KEY PIECES

twilight zone

Give your 10 year old an out-of-this-world space that will take her to infinity and beyond STYLING JESSICA HANSON PHOTOGRAPHY SAM MCADAM-COOPER



STYLING ASSISTANCE: GEORGIA HARRINGTON, CASSANDRA BOWE AND RORY CARTER PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION *THIS IMAGE IS SHOT IN A STUDIO AND SHOULD SERVE AS GENERAL INSPIRATION ONLY, CONSIDER WHETHER THESE PRODUCTS ARE SUITABLE FOR YOUR CHILD BEFORE PURCHASING

Resembling the pastel swirls of Jupiter, this print anchors the zone's colour palette. An artwork is a great starting point for a room's scheme, so choose wisely, then pull in key pieces. Infinity: Blush print, from \$279 (unframed), Middle Of Nowhere, middleofnowhere.com.au.

"Bring a space-themed room back down to earth with soft tones and clean lines"

JESSICA HANSON, STYLE EDITOR

'I-Sit' kids' **chair**,

220, Leo & Bella

Mix pillowcases for a layered look. The dappled design of this option softens the geometric lines of the quilt cover, and the sweet tones lighten things up. 'Synthesis' pillowcase, \$49/pair, Arro Home, arrohome.com.

THE STORAGE

Astronaut's helmet? Rocket booster? No, it's a handy unit that will keep your kid's room clutter free. The modular system lets you go for the configuration that suits your space. Kartell 'Componibili' storage modules, from \$350 each, Space Furniture, spacefurniture.com.au.

wall light, \$99

nurk 'Astronaut' quilt cover, \$179.95, Vincer

AND THE REST... On bed: 'Kami' quilt cover (reverse side shown), \$149/single, and 'Kami' pillowcase, \$29.95 each, Aura By Tracie Ellis, 'Swatch' velvet cushion, \$84, Castle. On ladder: Daycraft 'Silver Slab' A6 notebook, \$20, Top3 By Design. On floor: 'Moon' cushion, \$49, Arro Home. Luckyboysunday 'Pale Nulle' toy, \$159, Designstuff. Hand-gilded silver cushion, \$160, Spacecraft. Rocket toy, stylist's own. Golden Goose Deluxe Brand 'Silver Moon' sneakers, from \$225, Mamapapa. Uashmama storage bag, \$44, Stem. Slinky, \$14.95, Vintage & Nostalgia Co. On bedside: Esaila 'Cherry' table lamp, \$290, The Minimalist. Kinto 'Tria' tumbler, \$11, Top3 By Design. On wall: 'Pynn' stone wall hooks, \$181.50 each, Thomas Coward. Sebra kids' metal clothes hanger, \$24/set of 3, Designstuff. Frends 'Taylor' headphones, \$269, Myer. Foreground wall in 'Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology' low sheen paint in Salt Spray, \$46.45/1L, background wall in 'Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology' low sheen paint in Pensive Quarter, \$41.45/1L, Dulux. ADDRESS BOOK page 165

of imagination and you have

Dreams of jetting through the stratosphere are a sure thing with this smart bunk bed. Made from Baltic birch plywood, it's stylishly sturdy. Add a bit

a spaceship en route to Mars.

Oeuf 'Perch' bunk bed, \$2299,

Kido Store, kidostore.com.





wrap stars

Direct from Japan, Hello Sandwich blogger Ebony Bizys reveals clever ways to elevate your presents in her new book, *Hello Tokyo* words EBONY BIZYS

STYLING EBONY BIZYS & RIKA ENDO PHOTOGRAPHY BOCO



IDEA 4

ribbon

Use wide ribbon to create a bow for your present by folding the ends to the middle to make a loop, with the ends just overlapping. Stitch through all layers in the centre of the loop and pull the stitches tight to gather the ribbon into a bow shape. Wrap a small loop of contrasting ribbon around the centre. Attach your bow to the present by hand-stitching or using glue.



TECHNIQUE FOR WRAPPING IS LOTS OF LITTLE STICKERS



IDEA 5

belt

Jazz up your present by adding a small strip of contrasting paper as a belt to the wrapped present. If you have a craft-edge punch, you may like to punch along the edges of this strip for a fun effect. Fold a thin strip of MT tape-covered lightweight cardboard to form a little bow, and finish off with a gemstone sticker in the centre.



doily

The simplest style of wrapping can be transformed easily by adding a paper doily. Try experimenting with gold, silver and pastel-coloured paper doilies. You could also spray-paint plain white paper doilies to create a unique effect. Hold the doily in place with some tape glue and fasten with a ribbon of your choice.



A quick way to add a handmade element to gift wrapping is to make a crepe-paper bow. Cut a rectangle of crepe paper no larger than your present box. Next, squeeze the crepe paper in the middle, forming a bow shape, and fasten with some string. Attach the crepe-paper bow to the present with some cute string, ribbon or twine.



mt paper

Simply stick some torn pieces of MT tape over a piece of plain-coloured wrapping paper to create an original design. Add a metallic ribbon or a present topper of your choice to finish the look. Photocopy or scan your designs to reuse them!

ebony's tip
PHOTOCOPY OR
SCAN YOUR DESIGNS
TO REUSE THEM FOR
FUTURE PRESENTS!



Q+A WITH...

Ebony Bizys

If you have to wrap a gift in a rush, what's your quick trick for making something look instantly better?

Pop your gift into a patterned paper bag and adorn with a pre-made bow or handmade gift tag. I like to keep such bows and tags handy for these situations. I almost always use everyday dot stickers to decorate most of my presents. You can find these dot stickers in stores such as Officeworks (officeworks. com.au), or Kmart (kmart.com.au), and Australian stationery brand Blank Goods (blankgoods.com.au) also has some lovely alternatives.

What are some not-so-obvious items you've used for gift-wrapping?

I've been known to make bows out of kitchen aluminium foil, repurpose recycled envelopes as gift bags by adding a handle and some decorative stickers, or turn a (washed) empty obento lunch box into a gift box.

What's a good example of something you've had to quickly improvise for gift-wrap? I once resorted to turning an ordinary plastic bag into something slightly nicer, by cutting the handles off, so that the bag was essentially a plastic pocket, and added small torn pieces of colourful MT tape to the bag, and fastened the bag with some glittery Avril string. Surprisingly, it didn't look too shabby once complete, and it's a great example that you really don't need much on hand to make kawaii (cute) gift wrapping!

You must have lots of amazing supplies on hand. What's your favourite way of keeping them all sorted? Living in a tiny Tokyo apartment, it can be challenging to keep supplies sorted easily. I'm quite good at playing what I like to call 'Apartment Tetris': squeezing boxes full of craft supplies into tiny nooks and crannies. I have a stack of clear storage boxes from Daiso (actually, I think they're shoeboxes) that I use to separate craft materials. These boxes

are also great to use to keep craft works from being squashed in between and on the way to and from shoots.

I'm also a fan of retro multi-coloured timber drawers. I have one for ribbons, one for envelopes and stickers, one for paper, and so on.

What are your favourite places in Australia to pick up wrapping supplies? Since I've been living in Japan for five years I think I'm a little out of touch with the best places, but I still follow the designs by Blank Goods and Kikki K (kikki-k.com). My absolute favourite Australian wrapping products are made by The Souvenir Society, (thesouvenirsociety.com), which I order online!

When I'm in Sydney with family for Christmas, Mum always heads to Officeworks for glitter glue and butcher's paper, which I paint while I'm in town and we use the paper to wrap gifts and make festive bonbons.

I love to buy trims and wrapping accessories from cheap and cheerful places - Big W (bigw.com.au), Lincraft (lincraft.com.au) Target (target.com.au) and Kmart - and chop and change them all up into a cute arrangement for a present topper. It's fun for me to try to make something special from something ordinary.



Edited extract from *Hello Tokyo* by Ebony Bizys (\$35, Murdoch Books).





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EAEG



Create restaurant-quality meals with a little help from two impressive ovens. The AEG 45cm Compact 24 Multi-Function ProCombi™ Oven (KS8404001M, \$3,499) is available as a steam oven or a convection oven with a steam function – steaming enhances flavours, aromas and texture. Add the self-cleaning AEG 60cm 24-function NaviSight ProCombi™ Oven (BS9314001M, \$4,999) and all your cooking bases are covered.



From traditional bake to turbo grill, plus a range of ProCombi™ steam and heat programs, these ovens come with a host of pre-set functions, all designed to take the hard work out of cooking.

Harvey Norman



EIAEG



If you asked any serious cook to design the ultimate cooktop, there's a good chance it would look just like this – a combination of three sleek AEG induction surfaces. Try teaming the 36cm 2-Zone Crystalline Induction Hob (HC452400EB, \$2,449), 58cm 2-Zone Induction Teppan Yaki Plate (HC652600EB, \$5,499) and 36cm Induction Wok Hob with Stainless-Steel Wok (HC451500EB, \$3,749).



THE INNOVATION

Streamline the cooking process and create authentic Japanese dishes by cooking directly on the Teppan Yaki plate, while the Induction Wok Hob has a large, recessed stainless-steel wok that's ideal for stir-fries.

Harvey Norman



EAEG



With the trend for open-plan living and entertaining, a powerful rangehood is a cook's best friend. This slick AEG 90cm Stainless-Steel Street Canopy Rangehood (X99384MV01, \$3,899) comes with the DirekTouch™ glass slide-control display system (which is a fast, simple way to instantly set the exact extraction level required to clear the air), dimmer-controlled LED lights and stainless-steel micromesh filters that are dishwasher safe.



This rangehood comes with an ActiveHeat™ Sensor, a clever function that progressively adjusts the power so the hood works efficiently to remove any cooking vapours from the room, quick smart.



EAEG



After a family dinner or post-party, a cutting-edge dishwasher will make short work of cleaning up everything from fine glasses to heavy-duty pots and pans. The AEG 60cm Semi-Integrated Stainless-Steel Dishwasher (F990151M0P/AU, \$2,299) is extra-quiet and handles a large load easily, plus it features a hotter last rinse cycle so dishes are not just sparkling clean but 99.99 per cent bacteria free.



THE INNOVATION

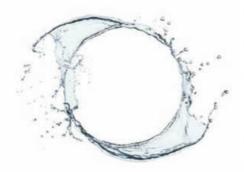
The ProZone feature in selected models means the dishwasher is divided into zones – glasses in the top basket while the lower one is for pots – so items can be washed at the ideal temperature and pressure.



EIAEG



With elegant lines and superior programs, this washer and dryer are a perfect match. To care for your clothes gently and effectively, the AEG ProTex 8 Series 8kg Front Load Washer (L87480FL, \$1,899) has an OptiSense feature, which adjusts the time of the cycle as well as the water and energy consumption and the 8 Series Condenser Dryer (T86280IC, \$1,899) ensures even drying with reduced creasing.



THE INNOVATION

To keep garments looking newer for longer, these high-tech appliances both have 16 exceptional programs, from an Ultra Quick wash to advanced wool/silk drying, to make caring for your clothes simple.

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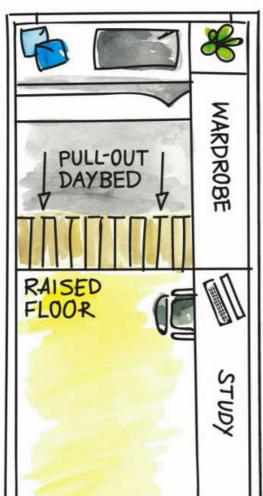
One half of *The Block:*Glasshouse's winning duo,
Shannon Vos of VosCreative,

DESIGN FOCUS

spare room solutions

With a tendency towards smaller homes these days, spare rooms have to work harder than ever. Here are Shannon's clever ideas for creating a flexible space







In this case, lighting should be subtle - downlights on one side of the room should suffice, but make sure you sexy it up with feature lamps.

study first, bedroom second

I / If the room is predominantly an office, make it clear by raising the floor of the bed area at the rear. It'll mean that when you walk in, you feel as if you're in a study that happens to progress to a sleeping zone.

2/Keep your desk and wardrobe space on one side to streamline the room and create the sense of a bigger zone, allowing the opposite side to be more usable.

In this instance, a pull-out daybed is the perfect solution. Mounting it on a hard raised surface will make it easy to operate just make sure you leave enough room for the bed to be pulled out.

To ensure that the space has a cohesive feel, choose joinery that flows between the office and the sleeping zones. Keep it simple and understated.

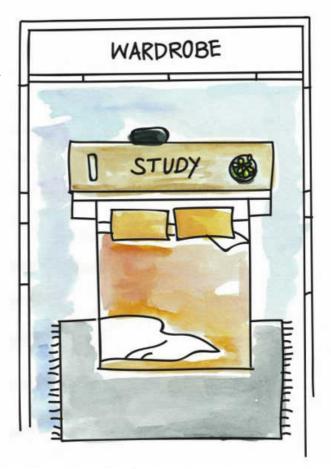
bedroom first, study second

The key to this layout is finding a bedhead that completely hides the desk behind. Placing the bed into the centre of the room, with a rug underneath, makes it clear that the space is primarily for rest.

2/Choosing a desk that's on the smaller side will help pull off this look.

Create a study area that has minimal desktop clutter and more hidden storage. A chair with a slender profile and clean lines will also help achieve a calm look.

If you're keeping your spare room mostly for guests, make them feel comfortable with furnishings and details you would have in your own room. Neutrals and a pared-back palette are sure bets for a relaxed and inviting feel. Soft whites and greys, with a subtle pop of colour, are always style winners in my book.







designer tip

Don't underestimate how updating one or two cushions in line with the season's colour palette will keep a room feeling fresh



Overwhelmed by all the colours and shapes available? Style star Shaynna Blaze details how to find the right ones



Cushions can instantly transform a room. Available in an infinite set of shapes, colours, patterns and textures, they're a beautiful way to make a statement without saying a thing. Here, interior designer, The Block judge and Selling Houses Australia presenter, Shaynna Blaze shares her style tips from her latest book, Design With Colour And Style.

getting started A monochromatic colour scheme is a great way to start working with your cushions. You can then add one or two tones to find out what works best with the rest of the room. If you don't want to mix too many colours, but you also want variety, look at just one shade in a few different patterns it's a brilliant way to give a room interest without worrying about colour 'rules'.

/create interest A mixture of lots of pattern with a couple of solid-coloured cushions can turn a boring couch into an artist's palette. And a striking combination of stripes and simple geometric patterns can elevate a casual zone into a sophisticated, formal room.

/quick and easy update Trends move on very quickly these days. Don't underestimate how updating one or two cushions in line with the season's colour palette will keep a room feeling fresh with a minimum of fuss.

set the mood Texture teamed with the colour of a cushion will heighten the look, adding depth, and layering cushions brings a sense of 'experience'. Fabrics with a shimmer on the surface - such as velvet or silk - teamed with jewel tones, like emerald and deep purple, create a richness and a sense of luxury. On the other end of the scale, slub cottons and chunky weaves in white, tan and soft grey bring a relaxed and casual feel.

/get comfy The best inners for a cushion are feather or a feather and fibre mix as they mould to your body and have a soft, pillow-like feel. They may be a little more high maintenance to

> fluff up but it's worth the effort, as they last a long time. In the cooler months, knitted or felted fabrics give a snuggled-up feeling; for the warmer months, linen, cotton and natural fibres that breathe will keep you cool when the temperature rises.





Shaynna's latest book, Design With Colour And Style (\$39.99, Viking/ Penguin), is out now.

Follow Shaynna on Instagram and Twitter: @shaynnablaze



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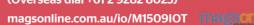


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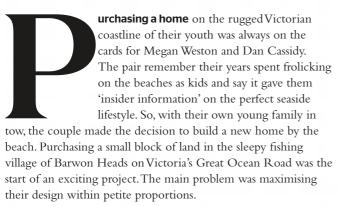
inside











"When this block popped up, we both knew instantly that we were up for the challenge," says Megan. Bursting with ideas and buoyed by the notion of full creative control as project managers the couple snapped up the land and set to making a plan, working with Nick & Allie Barker Constructions. "We were excited about the triangular shape and north/north-west orientation of the land, and worked on how best to use the space," says Megan.

As happens with most plans though, there were curveballs such as waiting on council approval. "It was like a time bomb ticking away," recalls Megan. "Our nearby rental accommodation was about to expire, and there seemed to be endless rounds of changes to our plans to get this build over the line."

But with persistence and last-minute layout alterations – such as relocating the bedroom further back from the road – the build itself was relatively smooth sailing, taking place over a year.



"We wish we had installed the amazing Oblica fireplace sooner. It was a tight squeeze to fit it in post-build, but we couldn't be happier with the result" MEGAN WESTON, OWNER











"We used Natural Zebrano veneer from Laminex and MadeMeasure tan leather recessed pulls on the vanity"

MEGAN WESTON OWNED

Due to the planning delays, Megan, Dan and the kids were forced to move into their new home before it was finished, however, it didn't take long for them to stamp their personality on the home with an eclectic yet cool-and-considered interior fit-out. Walls were layered up in moody grey with a darker shade applied to the ceiling, creating an overall feeling of warmth and intimacy in the space.

"Our friend and interior designer Camilla Molders helped us make some fabulous palette selections, with the sunset-toned entry being one of our favourites – it's a very James Turrell experience with the same shade used on the ceiling as well as the trims. Paint can make an amazing difference," says Megan. "It makes me smile every time I arrive home!"

Not surprisingly, a carefully selected edit of art has finished the home with bursts of colour. Megan's own highly sought-after resin masterpieces add a contemporary twist to the home's coastal charisma. Soft furnishings are chosen for texture, and bedlinen for fun alongside other decorator items from Megan's favourite stores, Fenton & Fenton and Moss Grotto, which tell the tale of this creative family's brilliant eye for style.

"We couldn't be happier with the end result," she says. "We love our time within these four walls, especially by the fireplace in winter and on the deck in summer – but we equally enjoy our time beach combing and surfing with the kids." To contact Nick & Allie Barker Constructions, call (03) 5255 3559. For more on interior designer Camilla Molders, visit camillamolders.com.au.

LEFT: BRANCH AND SIDE TABLE, HOUSE OF ORANGE, HOUSEOFORANGE.COM AU, HEADDRESS, BAMBOLOTTA, BAMBOLOTTA.COM.AU. BOXES AND



2009-2010 2011 2012- 2014

May 2009 Megan and Dan purchase the block of land. April 2010 Iluka is born, so building plans are set aside. November 2010 Settlement of land takes place. February Plans are drawn up and sent to council.

May Council reject plans, as the design means the house sits too close to the road.

June Plans are redrawn and resubmitted.

July-October Council approves new plans.

Work starts on the build
- the site is dug, slab is
poured and concrete is
burnished. The frame
and blocks go up and the
windows are installed.
November The fit-out is
almost complete except
the kitchen, which has been

installed in the wrong position. The kitchen is removed and reinstalled.

December With their rental lease up, the family moves into an unfinished home.

Dan is away for work so Megan moves everything in by herself with the kids.

January 2012 - May 2014 House is finished - carpets, windows, fireplace installed and furnishings added. The house is painted and landscaping is completed.

(opposite, left) "They love it," says Megan of her kids sharing this House Of Orange bunk bed. Bright bedlinen and a rug, all from Kip & Co, and Louise Blyton artworks bring playful colour to this bedroom. MASTER BEDROOM. The bold tones in Megan's artwork are echoed on the

SUNNY AND ILUKA'S ROOM

bed, dressed in Kip & Co sheets. A recess at the centre of the built-in storage takes on side-table duties.





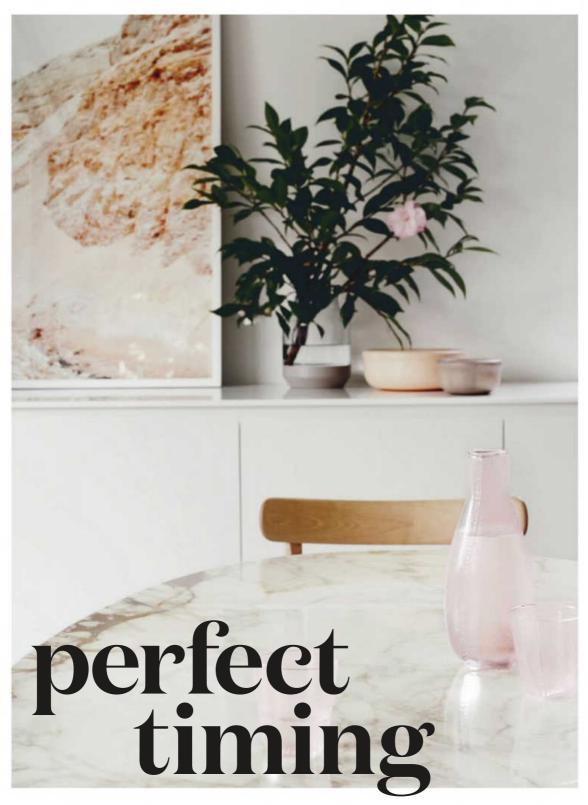


OWNER MEGAN WESTON'S TOP ART TIP
"Take one colour from your artwork
and reference it somewhere else in the room - whether it be a blue cushion or a green vase – so it ties into the space without being too matchy-matchy"

paint palette

Megan and Dan's home amps up the colour for a distinctive look. **Clockwise from top:** 'Interior Expressions' low sheen acrylic **paint** in Grey Ridge, \$39.95/1L, Haymes Paint, haymes. com.au. 'Aquaenamel' **paint** in Fandangle, \$50.85/1L, and 'Weathershield' paint in Domino, \$74.95/4L, Dulux,





After five years of refining their vision, this Sydney couple created a home that's an entertainer's paradise and family-friendly sanctuary in one

WORDS CERI DAVID STYLING JOSEPH GARDNER PHOTOGRAPHY PRUE RUSCOE







oving house just a few months before the birth of your first child is brave. Diving straight into a big reno, on the other hand – well, that's just silly. Which is why, having bought their doer-upper in Sydney's Bellevue Hill, expectant parents Dana and Avi satisfied themselves with ripping up the carpets, making smaller changes, and putting anything more ambitious on hold until safely out of nappy territory. Of course, Mother Nature laughs in the face of us humans and our plans, so when Isabella's little brother Kobi arrived just 19 months after her, those renovation plans started making themselves very comfortable on the back burner.

In the end, it was five years before the overhaul began – not that they begrudge that time. "We loved it," says Dana. "It's a leafy street in a friendly neighbourhood and the house has a great energy. Apparently the people who lived here before entertained a lot, too, so I think that good vibe has carried on. We've hosted lots of birthday parties." Meanwhile, the delay gave the couple ample opportunity to pin down what they wanted and how to achieve it. "This row of houses was built by the same family in the early 1900s," says Dana. "We wanted to maintain that history, and add a few modern elements to maximise space and light."

Dana and Avi were also keen to make the place even more of a hub for friends and family, while embracing Dana's love of minimalism and a clean white palette. Dana began collating ideas torn from interiors magazines and printed from the web, which she kept in a large portfolio, sectioned off by room. By the time the kids were old enough to make the renovation a manageable project, the pair knew precisely what they wanted. "It was great to live in the house to get a feel for light and space, and what we needed as a family," says Dana. "After that time, I knew exactly what my bathroom would look like; what my kitchen would look like."

The couple hired an architect to draw up structural plans for extending the house – an obvious move, according to Dana. "It was a massive garden with a tiny house. And once those plans were approved, we knew exactly how we'd rezone the spaces."

The entire extension would become a large open-plan kitchen, living and dining area with a concealed laundry, freeing up the original footprint of the house for everything else. They'd knock the master bedroom through into the second bedroom, to be converted into a walk-through wardrobe and ensuite.





The existing living area would be divided into two important new rooms: an after-hours office for Avi and a playroom for Kobi and Isabella, just opposite their own bedrooms and bathroom.

Next, Dana and Avi set about finding interior architects whose style fit with theirs. After an extensive local search, they were finally won over by Anna Pipkorn and Jane Kilpatrick of Pipkorn & Kilpatrick, a Melbourne firm with fresh white designs that had found their way into Dana's inspiration folder several times over. The deal was, as a stay-at-home mum, she would project manage, and they would fly up when required. "It was a collaboration that worked well because I gave them such a clear brief," says Dana.

Much of that revolved around clever storage solutions. "The house was chock-a-block, with things stored in every nook and cranny," says Dana. "So I did an inventory of all our possessions, and figured out exactly what we needed and where: a drawer for spices, a drawer for oven mitts and teatowels, a drawer for cling film — that's my favourite drawer. I measured the heights of all my appliances so I knew exactly how tall to make the shelves in the pantry." This — bear in mind — was still months before any building work started, which gave Anna and Jane plenty of time to draw up detailed plans, including a pantry and hidden storage under benches in every room.

In March 2013, Dana and Avi found a builder who appreciated the attention to detail that this job would require: Richard Siltala.



- 1. Entry
- 2. Master bedroom 9. Deck
- **3.** Walk-through wardrobe
- 10. Dining area11. Kitchen
- 4. Ensuite
- 12. Concealed pantry
- 5. Kobi's bedroom
- 13. Study nook

8. Living area

- **6.** Bathroom **7.** Laundry
- 14. Isabella's bedroom
- 15. Plavroom
- 16. Office

THIS PAGE, LEFT: SWEDESE SIDE TABLE, FRED INTERNATIONAL, FREDISHERE.COMAU, BASKET, LUC DESIGNSTORE.COM, THIS PAGE, RIGHT: HAY FOLDERS AND BOXES, CULT, CULTDESIGN.COMAU, VASE, URBAN COUTURE, URBANCOUTURE.COMAU, BIN, STYLECRAFT, STYLECRAFT.COMAU, OPPOSITE: BEANBAG, DESIGNSTUFF, DESIGNSTUFF.COM.AU. THROW, ABODE, ABODELIVING.COM. RUG. CADRYS CONTEMPORARY. CADRYS.COM.A<u>U. CUS</u>



Leaning a mirror against the wall gives the bedroom a more relaxed look and lets you play with the angle light is reflected at.

lessons learnt

"While digging foundations, builders found the sewer line that had vanished from the most recent plans" DANA, OWNER

"To build over it, the line was encased in concrete, in collaboration with Sydney Water, adding \$18k in costs and a two-week delay."

Best surprise: "Seeing our plans become reality it all came together better than I imagined."

Biggest cost: "Joinery it was specially designed by Pipkorn & Kilpatrick for dual usage and to keep each room minimal and clean. Everything's hidden away, and I love it."

"I spent five years honing my vision. And it's even better than we imagined"

DANA, HOMEOWNER





"He was all about Excel spreadsheets, daily emails and weekly progress meetings," says Dana. "And he knew from the start that he'd be working with interior architects based in Melbourne." From then on – other than a two-week hold-up when a sewer line was discovered during the extension's build – everything went to plan.

Richard's recommended joiner, Tim Maybury, brought to life the sleek cabinetry that Anna and Jane had designed, including the laundry that's tucked behind a pivot door with lines so seamless you wouldn't know it's there. Inside is one of Dana's favourite features: the 'spare' fridge. "When you entertain, how do you fit the food on platters in one fridge?" For lovers of minimalism and tidiness, this home is a dream. There are no handles on cupboards; everything is floor-to-ceiling. Even the toys and TV in the playroom can be hidden behind panels. "Isabella and Kobi play, then afterwards everything has its place. When they're not here you wouldn't know I have kids," says Dana. "I'm pedantic about neatness."

A streamlined approach to furnishing also shows Dana's value of 'neatness'. Super-fine lines are a common feature, with a neutral palette making tonal links to the refined silhouettes throughout the home – from Isabella's String study station to Hay bedside tables.

Just a month before moving back in for Christmas, Dana and Avi decided they'd been wrong not to include a pool in their plans so rectified that at the last minute. Now, she says, it's the perfect home both for quiet relaxation and bustling parties. "We have the big doors wide open, and we spill out onto the deck," says Dana. "When people ask me what I'd change about our house now, I say 'absolutely nothing'. I spent five years honing my vision. And it's even better than we imagined." The For more on Pipkorn & Kilpatrick, pipkornkilpatrick.com.au; Richard Siltala, siltalaconstructions.com.au; Tim Maybury, tsmcabinets.com.

MASTER SUITE (these pages) Plans for the renovated home included knocking the master bedroom through the second bedroom. What was previously the second sleeping zone now houses a walk-through wardrobe and ensuite. A couple of months after construction started, Dana and Avi amended the plans to include a skylight above the wardrobe, which adds to the light and spacious quality of the room.

ISABELLA'S BEDROOM A message board from Floral + Hardie brings a touch of fun to the space, while pastel bedlinen adds a sense of warmth. A String study station (below) offers a homework zone and storage, with a Hay 'Plissé' archival folder crowning it nicely. TO THE MOON AND BACK





Joseph's tips on creating a chic kid's bedroom

- + **Get smart** While the bright tones of toys might not fit within your ideal colour palette, choosing smart storage solutions that offer lots of space to stash extras will keep things tidy.
- + Add personality If the space features a study nook, make sure there's lots of room to display your kid's prized trinkets and toys, and pin up artworks they've created for a truly personal look.
- **+ Have fun** You can't have a kid's room without colour but it's important to find a tonal balance that suits you and your child. Bedlinen and floor rugs are great spots to work in brightness.







light & dark

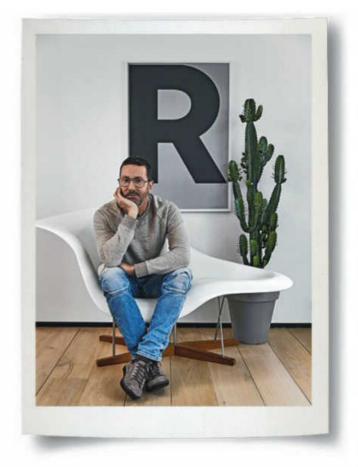
TACTILE PIECES AND A LUSH HIT OF GREENERY GIVE THIS MELBOURNE WAREHOUSE ITS REFINED YET INVITING FEEL

WORDS JOANNE HAWKINS STYLING DEB MCLEAN PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN DOSWELL









fter many happy years renting an Art Deco apartment overlooking Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens ("My lovely old Polish landlady loved me and the rent never went up"), Craig Miller-Randle decided the time had come to buy his own home.

With his homewares business

MRD Home going from strength to strength, Craig started the search for a place to call his own, eventually putting a property in nearby St Kilda East on his wishlist.

First though, he had to go to China on a buying trip, and while there – as had become his habit – casually started flicking through a real estate website back home. Five minutes later, a converted Richmond warehouse – designed by architect Michael Jan, who Craig had long respected for his affinity with industrial-style properties – had captured his heart.

"I'd been to dinner at Michael's place in the city - he was one of the first people to live in an entire floor of a warehouse - and I really loved his aesthetic," explains Craig. "So I saw this place and just went 'Wow'."

Buying trip completed, he flew back to Melbourne and went straight from the airport to view the warehouse, which was split over four levels. And it didn't disappoint. "I think I actually gasped when I first walked in," remembers Craig. "It was the right size for one person yet it had drama, which is a difficult combination to find. It was unlike most of the places I had seen to date."

"So I had a dilemma. Should I skip the St Kilda auction — which was first — and hope that I could buy the warehouse? In the end, I decided I was going to go for what I loved."







Craig, it's obvious your home had you at hello. How did the auction go? There was fierce competition but I decided I didn't care what it cost and would just keep bidding. I went about \$50,000 over my limit but I knew that would seem like nothing in a few years' time thanks to capital growth.

You mentioned the 'drama' of the home - what else made it so special? This building was converted into a number of apartments but unlike the ones next door — which have walls and feel more conventional in comparison — this one was left open, which increases the sense of space. I love that you can be in one area, still connect with other areas and have all these different vistas. Did the fact that the warehouse didn't need too much work also appeal? While I would've loved to have built from the ground up, I didn't think I could handle that at the same time as managing my business. So the fact that it had been done to a point but was still very much a blank canvas and didn't require me to strip back somebody else's personality was appealing.

What were your aims with the interior? Initially, I wanted to absorb the furniture and items I had already. I've always collected things – such as Indonesian tribal art – and I also had much-loved pieces

of furniture, such as my original 'Egg' chair and two leather 'Swan' chairs by Arne Jacobsen. I also love contrasts, so aimed for a mixture of old and new, fluffy and hard, matt and gloss, that kind of thing. How would you describe your home's style? I would call it relaxed Australian with a touch of Nordic. What's great about Scandinavian design is that it's pared back, so it's less about 'look at me' and more about the feel and the touch. I've always been a fan of sheepskin and leather; I love adding interest with texture, rather than colour. Are there a lot of items from MRD Home? It's probably about half and half. People ask me why I would buy from anywhere else and my response is, 'If you owned a restaurant, would you want to eat there every night?' I love the things we do but I don't want my entire home to be full of it. But I do see my home as my lab: I test things here to see how I like them and how I can live with them. What does your home mean to you? It's a complete sanctuary. I'm a very introverted person - I can go entire weekends without leaving the house. I'm able to reenergise and recuperate from a busy week here, which sounds like a bit of a cliché but it's absolutely true. I just love to be here and I never get bored with it. Follow MRD Home on Instagram @mrd_home.



how to make a plant wall

Love this clever plant wall? We did, too, so we asked Craig how to put it together and what plants to choose for a lush green display

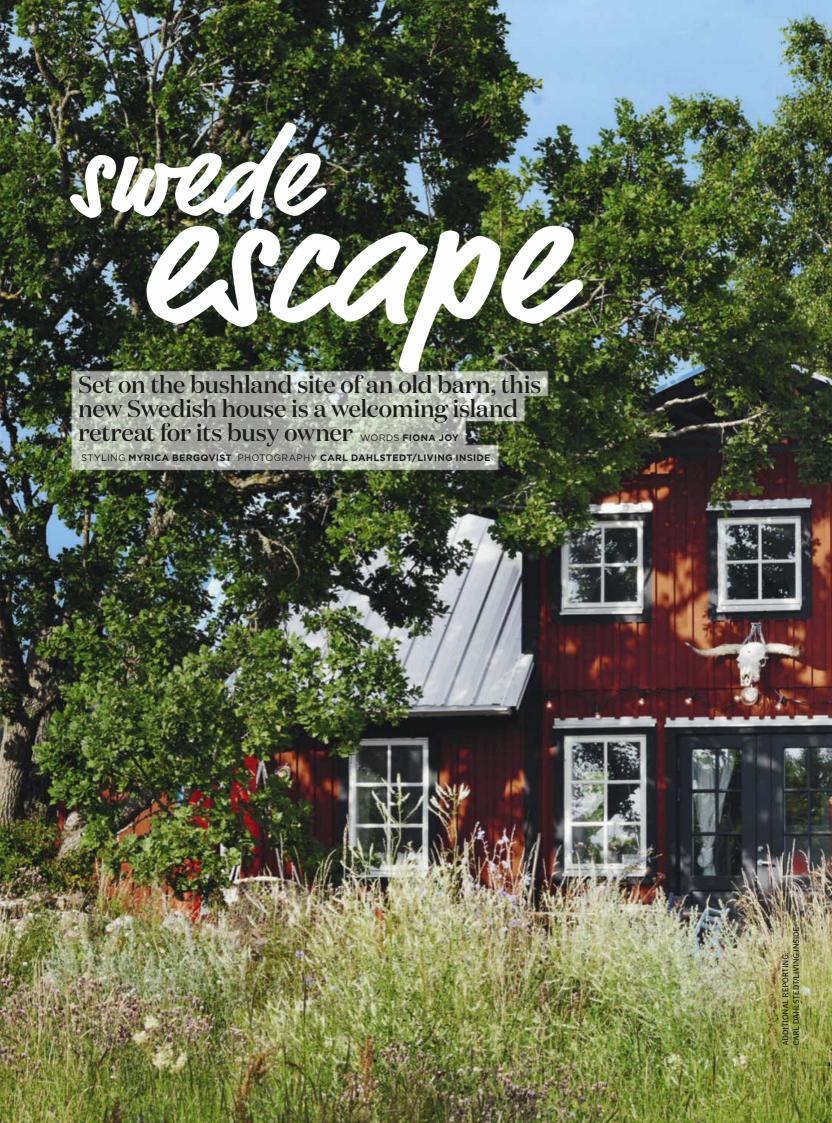
- + To create a plant wall, buy matte plastic pots and powder-coated shelf brackets. Drill three holes on the top rim of the pots, keeping a triangle's axis points in mind. Thread clear picture hanging cord through to hang the pot from the brackets.
- + Choose plants that are hardy and don't need too much water or frequent re-potting. I like epiphytic plants and my favourites are the rhipsalis and hoya species they're sculptural, trailing and will survive in both low and bright light conditions. Contrast these with a few large-leaf plants like monstera, philodendron, and elkhorn or staghorn ferns.
- **+ Keep your plants** in their original pots and place them on a plastic saucer turned upside down inside the hanging pot to prevent them sitting in water. Use a squeezable watering cane to water your plants easily.



"Adding a layer of greenery will freshen up a minimalist palette" Joseph Gardner, Market Editor













1 comfort factor

Kerstin bought the land on which her house now stands from friends, one an architect, who worked closely with her on the build. A custom-built bench seat topped with soft blue cushions brings a cosy feel to this corner. The tabletop is a cut floor stone, which Kerstin salvaged from the old farmhouse. The concrete floor is finished with pigmented paint.

2 shelf life

This recessed shelf underneath the staircase makes for a handy storage and display spot for glasses, right next to the open-plan living and dining area.

3 red centre

Almost nothing in Kerstin's house is new. Most of the pieces were found at jumble sales or left in the old barn by the previous owners; the barrels are one example of this. For the exteriors, Kerstin used Falu Rödfärg paint, a traditional Swedish paint coloured by the waste product from old copper mines that showcases the timber's unique grain.

"I came across this place while visiting friends and bought the land straight away" KERSTIN JOHANSSON, OWNER









"Match autique charu with tactile accessories for a relaxed retreat vibe"

JOSEPH GARDNER, MARKET EDITOR



5 sliding doors

This new house may be set on an idyllic bushland island but owes a lot of its unique charm to upcycled elements. For instance, Kerstin saved one of the doors from the old barn, painted it and put it on a slider to serve as the bathroom door. Potted plants and a ceramic tray of candles are welcoming little touches.

6 artistic pursuits

The majority of the art in Kerstin's home is created by friends. The painting on the wall in the hallway is by Caroline af Ugglas, a singer and artist. The framed print on the floor is a poster of the 1918 modernist masterpiece *Den Döende Dandyn* (*The Dying Dandy*) by Nils Dardel.







7 rest easy

One of the only rooms in the house to feature newly bought furniture is the pared-back bedroom. The bed and curtains (Kerstin only draws them when sleeping late) are from IKEA and the lamp is by Lux. Everything else in this room is vintage, including the wooden crate, which was also reclaimed from the original barn.

8 painted love

The compact hallway incorporates shelving for valuable storage. The timber walls throughout Kerstin's house have been coated with pigmented linseed oil. Linseed oil dries to a tough water- and stain-resistant finish. After painting, it continues to oxidise and darken, sometimes for years.

9 out of the box

Everything in Kerstin's kitchen is pre-loved, apart from a few accessories such as her knives. The concrete benchtop sits on cabinets that are custom made from a mix of repurposed kitchen doors. The photograph on the kitchen wall was taken by Henrik Schyffert, a comedian with whom Kerstin runs her production company.





postcard from Öland Island

Thanks to its beaches, Öland Island is a favourite summer holiday destination for Swedish families. Must-see places include Borgholms Castle, Eketorp Fortress and Stora Alvaret, a limestone plateau. In winter, the residents have the place to themselves. "I love what my house became," says Kerstin. "But what I really love is the small piece of land it stands on."



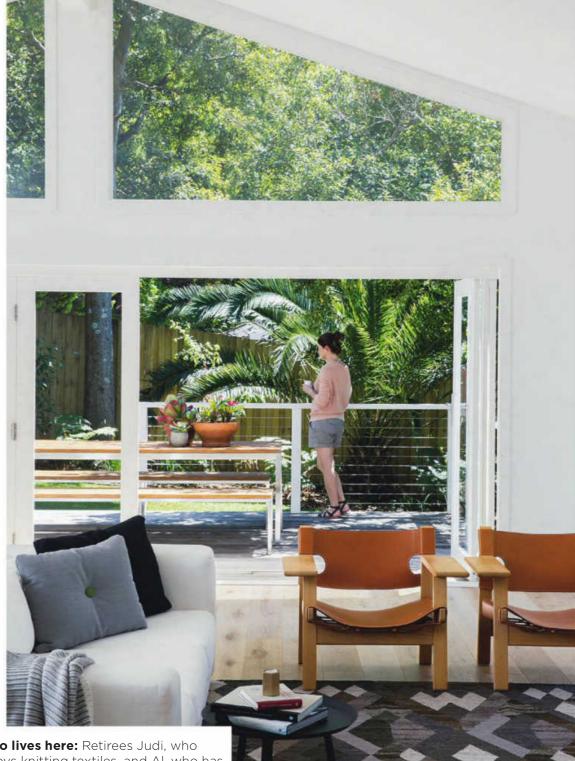
paint palette

This home's red and blue tones are tempered by expanses of white and a dark concrete floor. **Clockwise from top:** 'Interior Expressions' low sheen acrylic **paints** in Hypnotic and Modesty White, \$38.95/1L, Haymes Paint, haymespaint.com.au. 'Prooftint' traditional **stain** in Mahogany, from \$54.33/1L, Feast Watson, feastwatson.com.au.









Who lives here: Retirees Judi, who enjoys knitting textiles, and Al, who has a love of cooking - both in their 60s. Style of house: A contemporary home built on a subdivided block in North Sydney. It boasts vaulted ceilings, is bright, airy and features smart design, especially in the entertaining areas.

Timeline: Two to three years, from starting the subdivision process, planning with the architect, the interior design process, council approval, construction and decoration.

ssss

Budget: From building to decoration, \$1 million plus.

FRESH OUTLOOK

Traditionally, retirement is a time for stepping back and settling down but, for Judi and Al, traditional was never going to be on the cards. The couple, who had lived in their house for 30 years, saw this stage as the perfect opportunity to create a light and bright contemporary home that many would dream of growing old in. "We were looking to build something brand new that was easy to live in and maintain," says Judi. To do that, they subdivided the generous-sized block where their family home stood and got the best of both worlds: a fresh start in a postcode they loved.

The block has a north-facing aspect to the rear and is very quiet, private and leafy, which was ideal for their dream of a home with vaulted ceilings and a flexible interior. Judi and Al agreed on elements of their plans, but needed to nut out the finer details of the interiors. Here's how the couple tackled the project.



neutral and pared back, while Judi

+ storage Both of us need different

things stored, so we'd love a custom

loves colour and texture

design with minimal lines

different ways," she says.

changing spaces around, moving furniture and art, to see new

combinations. I wanted flexible rooms that could be used in







DESIGN IT.

The couple agreed they needed expert help with the project however, Judi wanted to have hands-on involvement, so finding an interior designer who could understand her needs was imperative.

Enter Suzanne Gorman of Studio Gorman, who was tasked with finding a balance between the couple's competing ideas. "With Al's preference for white and Judi's love of colour and adventurous style, it was important to listen to each client and work their wants and needs into the home," she says.

Some of Suzanne's biggest amendments had maximum impact on the flow of the home. "When I look at a client's plans, I visualise walking through the unbuilt house and seeing the changes we need to make," she says. "The best decision we made in space planning – a seemingly simple change – was relocating the door to the powder room away from view of the kitchen and tucking it behind the stairs."

Then came the fork in the design road for the couple, with Judi prioritising some elements and Al leaning towards others. "Al is an expert home cook and wanted a central and minimal-fuss kitchen where family could be nearby when he cooked, but not get in his way," says Judi. A large kitchen with an oversized island was a must.



LOUNGE (above) Suzanne designed contemporary joinery with minimal lines. "We help our clients to make accurate lists of what they want to store and where, then we design the joinery accordingly," says Suzanne.

ENTRY (right) A 'PP68' chair by Hans J. Wegner sits ready to catch incoming handbags and car keys.







- 1. Entry
- 2. Walk-in robe
- 3. Ensuite
- 4. Master bedroom
- **5.** Storage
- **6.** Powder room
- 7. Laundry
- **8.** Casual dining area
- 9. Deck
- 10. Living area
- 11. Kitchen
- 12. Formal dining area
- 13. Balcony
- 14. Lounge
- **15.** Garage
- 16. Guest bedroom
- 17. Bathroom
- 18. Guest bedroom
- 19. Guest bedroom





Suzanne oversaw construction, ensuring that everything from the big decisions to the finer details were executed with finesse. "Architectural drawings are open to interpretation. By being involved on site, you can ensure that everyone understands them the way you do," she says.

Another win was having Suzanne from the outset, before the DA was approved. "She gave me confidence in my ideas. And knew where to source all the products and materials, saving me time," says Judi.

With the walls going up and the house's foundations emerging, the interiors became the focus. "As the process developed, texture became the most important design element used in the palette," says Suzanne. Tonal levels were mixed up for subtle contrast throughout the home. Timber flooring from Porter's Paints welcomed a rich tone in line with the overarching vision. Extra boards were applied to the wall above the stairs and atop the custom-made storage unit in the lounge area.

The project took over a year to complete, with Suzanne making weekly site visits and being reachable by phone at all times. "I like to be on site when finishes, such as tiles and floorboards, are laid," says Suzanne. "Tile layout makes a huge difference to a bathroom, so you need to check where cuts are made. Attention to detail creates a polished finished product."

To see more of Suzanne's work, visit gormanprojects.com.



ENSUITE (top left) Green details bring a fresh feel to the space.

LAUNDRY (above) It's all about white in this crisp zone, from the glossy tiles on the splashback to the paper basket from Country Road. MASTER BEDROOM (opposite) Vibrant Kip & Co bedlinen and a Penny Hudson artwork offer the colour boost that Judi wanted. A Hay rug from Cult adds a hit of texture.





family bungalow

This Sydney family needs help updating their cooking zone, while keeping their options open for a larger future reno words lynne testoni photography nigel Lough



WHAT NEEDS TO GO

Here's what Chris and Lindsey don't like about their home at the moment

- Reparated kitchen and dining spaces
- **X** outdated and broken appliances
- no off-street parking



CHEAT SHEET

Who lives here: Chris McHugh, CEO of digital agency Sitback Solutions; his wife Lindsey, a senior project manager at Sitback Solutions, and their children, Evie Star, 9; and Gabriel, 7. Style of house: A freestanding Federation-era brick bungalow in Kensington in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs. How long have they lived here: 18 months.

the story so far

After living in their home for more than a year, Chris and Lindsey are now looking at a quick kitchen update. The current cooking zone is practical but small, and not suitable for their long-term needs. The couple is planning to renovate in a few years to create a much larger kitchen/dining/family area, so in the short term they're looking to add some character to an otherwise plain space.

what's not working?

The appliances all need to be replaced. The fridge was purchased before they moved house and the door opens the wrong way, which is "very annoying", says Lindsey. The dishwasher is old and doesn't wash dishes properly; the oven doesn't distribute heat well; and the gas hob is "ugly and time consuming to keep clean".

what they need

A more workable kitchen space in the short term, ideas to incorporate private parking, plus advice on a potential second storey.



Chris and Lindsey don't want to spend a lot of money at this stage preferring to save up for a more extensive renovation in about four years or so, which they expect would cost up to \$300k.



THE REALTOR Tolga Ozer Sales consultant, Morton, morton.com.au

the area

Most buyers in Kensington are looking for unrenovated full-brick freestanding houses. They want homes close to

transport, schools, Centennial Park and beaches, as well as the area's increasingly upmarket shops and restaurants.

the opportunity

According to Tolga, Lindsey and Chris could expect between \$1.4-\$1.5 million for their house in its current condition. If they add a parking space at the front of the property, he estimates it would add as much as \$150k to the value. "More buyers will compete and often pay over the odds for a property with a car space," says Tolga.

potential mistake

Chris and Lindsey have been considering building a second storey, which would house a bedroom, but Tolga warns they run the risk of overcapitalising. "From a re-sale point of view, the fourth bedroom will be a bonus for most buyers, but it doesn't necessarily mean they want to pay more for it," he says. In fact, Tolga thinks spending \$200k on a second storey would probably only add about \$80k to the value.







THE ARCHITECT
Andrew Benn
Director, Benn + Penna
Architecture,
bennandpenna.com

finding space for parking

Andrew is ever the pragmatist. After discussing the possibilities of adding

a separate master suite in a new second storey, he starts to rethink after a chat with the real estate agent Tolga. Adding off-street parking (a dream of Lindsey's) though would add at least \$100k to the property's value. Andrew has a look at the front of the house and advises that with some reconfiguration "perhaps moving the front door to the other side of the house" a car space could be created. At a cost of about \$20k, this would be a smart move and make it much quicker to get the family inside on busy weekends.

forming new connections

As for the kitchen, Andrew agrees with Chris that it would be relatively simple to remove the wall between the kitchen and dining room and open up the zone. He also feels that more could be done to open up the connection between the kitchen and the outdoor space.

Andrew comes up with a great idea that meets the family's wish for two ovens investing in an outdoor kitchen, something that Chris is very keen on as he loves entertaining outdoors. "I'd go with a proper barbecue that works with an oven and a wok outside," says Andrew. "It's an alternative to having the double oven and it would also encourage you to use the outdoor space more often. After all, if you put fans and outdoor heating in as the couple has done that's a year-round space."

1. Neolith 'Classtone Estatuario' sintered compact surface, \$495/ sqm, CDK Stone, cdkstone.com.au. 2. 'Wash & Wear Kitchen & Bathroom' paint in Grand Piano Half, \$42.90/1L, and 'Aquaenamel' paint in Vivid White, \$45.35/1L, Dulux, dulux.com.au. 3. 'Nero Oak Vulcano Brushed Natural Oil' flooring, \$308/sqm, Mafi, mafi. com.au. 4. Table Landscape (Tell Me Anyway) artwork by Sally Anderson, \$950, sallyleeanderson. tumblr.com. 5. 'Gas On Glass CG604DNGGB1'60cm cooktop \$1499, Fisher & Paykel, fisherpaykel. com.au. 6. 'Double DishDrawer DD60DDFX7' dishwasher, \$2149, Fisher & Paykel, as before.



THE STYLIST Lisa Koehler ISCD educator, stylist and interior decorator

where to begin

Stylist Lisa says the best way to start with a kitchen refresh is to assess what's working and what elements

can be repurposed, before moving forward with a new design. "Look at the 'kitchen triangle' as an option. It's a tried-and-true way of positioning your oven, fridge and sink in a triangular layout," she says. "Then you can look at grouping the areas into different activity zones – cooking, food preparation and a cleaning centre" – for an efficient layout".

kitchen seating

Lisa is a big fan of having seating areas or "breakfast benches" in family kitchens. "I'd arrange the seating at right angles, in an L-shape," she says. "This will make it feel inviting to linger and encourages conversation."

getting the colour palette right

Lisa's top tip for selecting colours and textures in a new kitchen? "Select the floor and benchtops together, then cupboards and splashback, followed by the paint colours for the walls." For Chris and Lindsey, she suggests floors stained in a dark chocolate colour with skirtings and architraves in Dulux Vivid White. "If your kitchen has both a benchtop and an island bench, there's an opportunity to add contrast," says Lisa. "Selecting different surfaces helps a neutral kitchen scheme work better." She recommends having a stainless-steel benchtop paired with an island bench in a beautiful Calacatta marble. For the walls and cupboards, Dulux Grand Piano would work well, with kitchen cabinets in quarter-strength and walls in half-strength paint.



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THE BUILDER
Wayd Munro
Focusbuild,
focusbuild.com.au

quality counts

For Wayd, much of his time is spent looking at the structure of the house and considering whether making any minor

cosmetic updates now would compromise later work. His advice is that much of the kitchen can be improved now and the key elements reused when it is expanded further down the track. "Items such as sinks and taps can be reused for the major renovation," says Wayd. Chris and Lindsey will be able to enjoy good quality items now, without feeling as if they're wasting money.

When he has a look at the cabinets, however, Wayd sees that, while new, they're made from cheap materials and aren't worth saving. "In low-cost kitchens, hinges and fittings are poor quality and will eventually break," he says. "The cabinets would also be more susceptible to damp, because of the cheaper material used." He recommends keeping the cabinets for now, but replacing them with a better quality option during the major renovation and choosing standard sizes in terms of appliances, so they can be retro-fitted into the new kitchen.

reaching new heights

If Chris and Lindsey still want to go up, Wayd thinks a second storey would be a relatively simple process from a building point of view. He suggests they rethink their ceiling heights (the house's ceilings are more than 3.5-metres high at the moment). They can easily reclaim some space here and not have to raise the roof as much, which would help with council and neighbour concerns. Additionally, if the couple just want to fit-out the roof space for storage, it would be an economical job with minimal intrusion.

"Items such as sinks
and taps can be reused
for the major reno"

WAYD MUNRO. PANEL BUILDER



APPLIANCE SPECIALIST

Mark Elmore General manager of design integration, Fisher & Paykel, fisherpaykel.com.au

a new door

Mark has great news for Chris and Lindsey their fridge (an older Fisher & Paykel model) can be fitted with a new door, allowing it to open on the other side. Many appliance companies keep spare parts for models that are up to 10 years old. The couple can now keep their current fridge for longer and upgrade to a larger model perhaps even an integrated version when the kitchen is renovated. This is welcome news for the couple, who had resigned themselves to putting up with something they found frustrating, despite liking the fridge itself.

perfect fit

Mark suggests going with a 60cm 11-function pyrolytic built-in oven, which will fit into the space now occupied by the broken one. This oven could then be matched with an induction or 'Gas On Glass' cooktop in the same configuration. The 'Designed To Match' range allows all these items to coordinate easily, which would set the couple up to future-proof their appliances before they finalise their renovation plans.

Mark thinks Lindsey and Chris might like a 'Double DishDrawer' dishwasher. Designed to fit existing kitchen cabinetry, this dishwasher is particularly suited to families as it provides two drawers that operate independently, so one can be loaded and set to wash while still leaving capacity in the second drawer.

With the outdoor kitchen, Mark suggests the DCS grill, which is available in freestanding models as well as integrated options.



Additional accessories, such as a griddle plate and shelves, will allow Chris to customise the cooking zone to his needs.







Time to make your move?

NAB Home Loans



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talk to your banker or broker



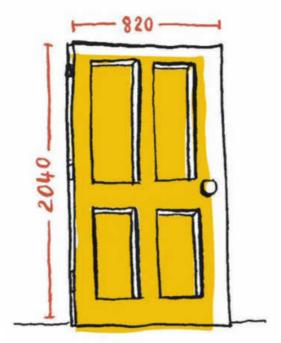
10 ways to stretch your budget

Unless you have more money than sense, you'll start your renovation project with a budget in mind. Here's how to make it work as hard as you do words FIONA JOY ILLUSTRATIONS KAT CHADWICK



Andrew Benn, architect keep things consistent

Variety may be the spice of life but when it comes to a renovation, it can be expensive. If you want to make your budget stretch a bit further, you need to make consistency your friend. If you plan to use similar materials where possible, it allows the builder to purchase larger quantities at typically lower rates. Also, keep the detailing in the design—such as the floor-to-ceiling junctions or the various built-in storage elements—consistent where you can, so the builder can become familiar with a working method and minimise labour costs.



set a staudard

Do your research on standardised building elements. Standard door sizes, for example, allow for the mass production of doors ready-made for installation and this helps drive down the cost. In Australia, the most common standard door height is 2040mm (although there's a trend towards taller doors at 2340mm) and standard width is between 520mm and 920mm, with 820mm being the most common. If your measurements are outside these parameters, it falls into the custom-made bracket, which is generally more expensive. Other common renovation elements that come in standard sizes are windows, kitchen cupboards, benchtops, vanities and baths you can save a motza by forgoing a few millimetres.

go opeu-plau

The more complex the design, the more it will cost to execute. Provided your structural span sizes aren't unusually large, designing an open-plan living area can be economical simply because fewer building materials are required. If you're unfamiliar with open-plan layouts, you'll have to learn how to manage large spaces, which can mean more carefully selecting furniture to create different pockets within the plan, combining different floor finishes, or using curtains or lightweight screens as dividers.



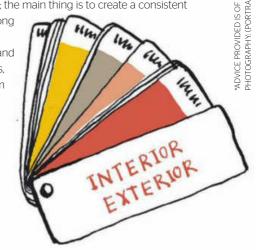
Lisa Koehler, interior stylist flooring first

When you're working on how to prioritise your spend, it's important to look at the key areas that will create the look you're after and give you maximum impact for your dollar. And one of those areas is flooring it completely sets the tone and mood for the space so it's important to allocate a good percentage of your budget to what you love. With quotes for flooring, remember to ask for the 'supply and install' figure, and make sure the company includes delivery costs and any other fringe expenses moving furniture, floor preparation or removing and taking the old flooring away for example so you understand what the total cost is.

pick your palette

A budget is no place for whims and flights of fancy. For a cost-savvy renovation plan, you need to have a firm understanding of the overall concept from the start and lock in your colour palette as soon as you can. (Of course you don't have to limit yourself to one colour palette for the whole house; the main thing is to create a consistent

feel throughout.) With a strong direction for the aesthetics, you'll be able to search for and select finishes in the colours, tones and textures that form the look you're after within your price bracket.



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Meg Bonighton, NAB general manager - home lending get to know your budget

The thought of spreadsheets might make your eyes glaze over, but a renovation budget doesn't have to be boring; think of it as a gateway to your dream home! Creating a precise budget is a really important first step in the renovation process, as it can help you identify exactly what you want to do, and how you're going to tackle it. Consider speaking to professionals to get a more accurate picture of your costs – this will give you a much better idea of what you're up for, and help you make informed decisions about where you can save, as well as the areas where you want to spend a little more. Good planning in the early stages might save you money down the track and could help you avoid unexpected costs. Depending on how big or small your plans are, you may want to consider breaking up the renovation into stages and starting with the most important improvements. Stay on track by keeping all your receipts and updating your spreadsheet as you go.

save swart

Knowing your budget in advance will give you a better idea of how much you need to save. There are a number of options available to help kick-start your savings plan including online savings accounts and term deposits. Some savings accounts offer bonus interest, depending on the circumstances, and these can be attractive to those who are saving regularly towards a particular goal (such as a renovation). If you have existing savings, you might want to lock your money away in a term deposit. Remember, renovations don't always go to plan so it's worth considering saving an extra 10 to 20 per cent as a buffer. Sorting out your finances can be daunting and circumstances vary, so sit down with your banker or broker to work out the right plan for you.

BORROWING POWER

No matter how big or small your reno, you'll need money to pay for it. But you don't have to rob a bank! Here's Meg's round-up of your legitimate borrowing options

- 1. Use your equity Equity is the value of your home minus the amount you owe. It can build up over time either because your home has risen in value or you've paid down your loan balance. The amount of equity you can access will depend on how much your lender will let you borrow. Of course, you need to be able to service any increase in debt, so just because you have \$100k equity doesn't mean you can borrow all of this for your renovation project. NAB's home equity calculator at nab.com.au can help you get an idea of how much equity you've got.
- 2. Take out a building loan The benefit of this type of loan is it may allow you to draw funds from the loan progressively as the invoices come in. Another advantage is that you're only charged interest on the progressive loan balance, not the full amount. It's also usually interest-only during the building stage (up to 12 months). This may help your cash flow as you're renovating, especially if you're renting. Once your interest-only period has finished, you will start paying principal and interest.
- **3. Redraw** Redrawing from your existing home loan may be an option and depends on how much available redraw you have. Not all loans have a redraw option. Keep in mind, the balance on your loan will increase if you do this and you might pay more interest.
- **4. Set up a personal loan** It might be the help you need to get smaller makeovers underway. Once you have a cost for your project, you can apply for the loan and receive the funds as a lump sum. The interest rates on personal loans are higher than home loans but, because the loan term is shorter, the interest charged over the life of the loan may be lower.
- **5. Use a credit card** Credit cards can pay for materials. If your card has an interest-free period, reduce your interest charges by paying the closing balance each month by the due date. Keep this in mind if you're on a tight budget. This information is of a general nature and for information purposes only.

Wayd Munro, builder waterials watter

When you're choosing materials for a build or an extension, you might naturally veer towards brick (especially if you're matching existing walls) but remember that it's expensive and, in many cases, you can get better insulation and sound-absorption values from a cheaper timber construction. Ditto for windows where timber will cost more than aluminium. This also applies to finishes for example, a concrete floor can be sealed and painted or polished, which will save you money on additional flooring. Discuss your design with your architect and builder early on most have a preferred building method and this will often be reflected in the price. The more detailed the project, the more expensive it will be. A simple yet smart design working with the current property (i.e. no massive excavation with standard details) will be the most cost-effective way to build.

plau your plumbing

fact: A bathroom can easily be the most expensive room in the house

One sure-fire way to eke out your budget for the building work is to keep the existing layout of the bathroom as is if the plumbing is in good condition. Moving the plumbing coring new holes or cutting up the concrete slab to put in new drainage will be expensive. After chatting to your builder about costs, be prepared for second thoughts when it comes to swapping the vanity and the toilet around. If you're adding an extra bathroom, locating it directly above or below the existing one will also make plumbing much more straightforward and leave you with more money to spend on the bits you can see.

shop swart

If you're prepared to put in the legwork, you can always find a better deal. When it comes to kitchen appliances, shop around and remember that if you're equipping the entire kitchen, you'll get a better deal if you order them all from the one place. That doesn't necessarily mean they all have to be the same brand; some stores will negotiate a package or price match if you find the same stuff cheaper elsewhere, even online. If you're spending a lot, you're in the driving seat so don't be afraid to ask for a discount. And keep an eye on auction sites, such as eBay (ebay.com.au) and Gumtree (gumtree.com.au), for tiles and the like. Lots of people over-order, so you can often pick up a great deal on quality products.

TOP 3 COSTLY MISTAKES

being too trendy

cabinets... Who knows whether they will stand the test of time. But one thing's for sure, being right on trend will mean having to spend plenty in the near future, unless you want to live in a time-capsule home that is forever 2015. "My advice is to keep reminding yourself of your own basic comforts and pleasures," says Andrew. "For example, a beautiful door handle that fits snug in your hand, or an intimate study nook with soft natural lighting once you get these right, they tend to never go out of fashion. If you want to make a trend statement, the best way to do it is with paint, which will only cost you a few bucks once you've decided to refresh."

going DIY

When you're looking at a budget, one way to cut costs is to identify what you can do yourself. And depending on your level of skill, there are probably a few areas where you can save on the trades and get your hands dirty. Demolishing and stripping out are obvious ones as are some landscaping and basic painting and decorating jobs. But you need to be aware of your own limitations. "For safety reasons, you shouldn't attempt to do your own electrical work (this is prohibited by law) or plumbing," says Wayd. "Any structural work also needs the services of a licensed builder/ tradesperson. And trying your hand at jobs (such as tiling, joinery and floor-sanding) can, unless you are especially handy, cost you big in terms of time and money to repair if you get it wrong. There's little point spending weeks plastering a room that a professional can knock over in a day, when chances are you'll end up having to call in the pros to put right what you've done wrong."

overcapitalising

Once you've taken the decision to renovate, it's easy to get carried away with all sorts of grand ideas. But what you have to remember is that every suburb has its ceiling price and, even if you're not planning to up sticks and on-sell any time soon, throwing in money that you won't get back is never a good idea. "Overcapitalisation is when you spend more money on your home than you are likely to get back if you had to sell it in the near future," says Meg. "It's important to know what your house is worth now, and what it could be worth once your renovation is done. Understanding your home's value will help you structure your renovation budget."



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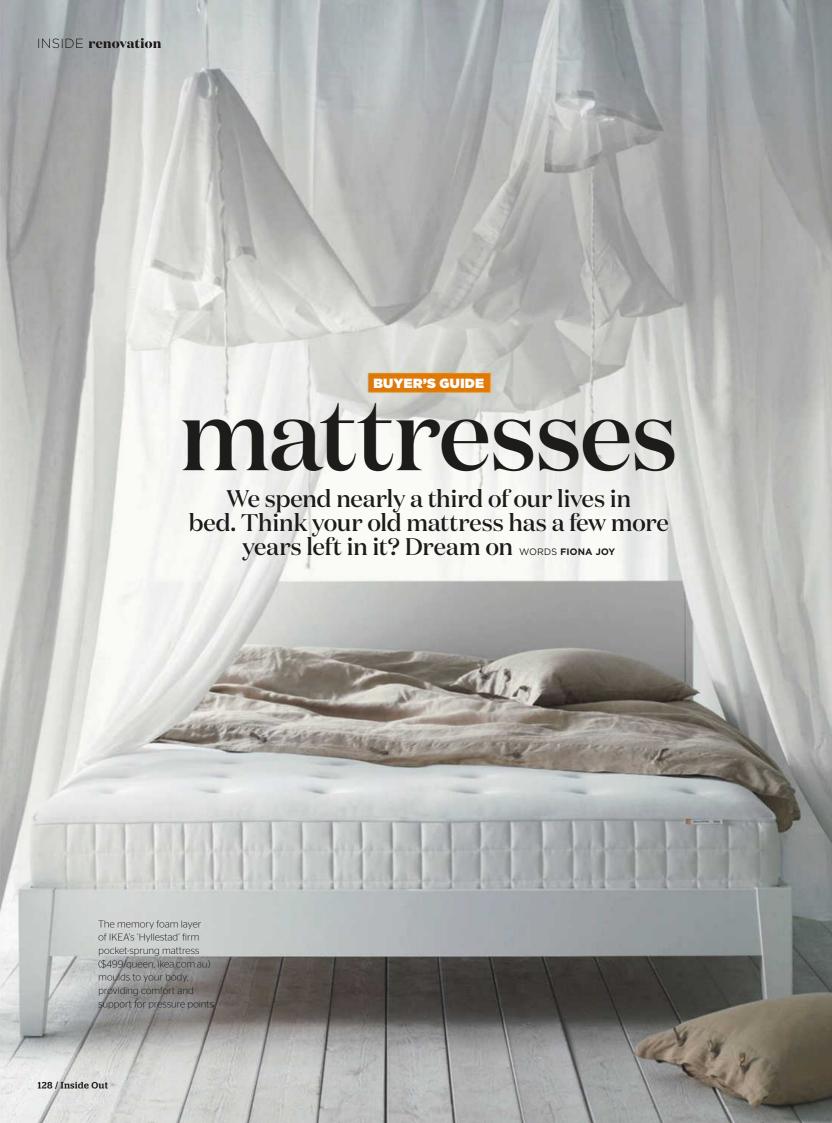


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talk to your banker or broker





esigned to last about 10 years, a good bed should be considered an investment, yet statistics show we're likely to replace our cars more often than our mattresses. You may think your trusted bed is comfortable but, because deterioration tends to be gradual, you don't realise it's no longer doing its job. A recent study by Oklahoma State University compared the experiences of people sleeping on a nine-and-a-half-year old bed to those when they slept on a brand new mattress. They found immediate and sustained improvement in sleep quality and comfort, as well as significant reduction in stiffness and back pain. So is it time to improve your Zzzs? Here's what you need to know.

size

They say bigger is better and that's certainly true when it comes to your bed. Australian beds come in a range of standard sizes from single to super king (turn the page for a rundown of the measurements) and the more you pay, the more wiggle room you'll have.

"Size is preferable but it's oriented by the environment," says Peter Meaney, Forty Winks category manager, Bedding (fortywinks.com.au). "Doubles are popular for inner-city living where space is at a premium, however queen size and increasingly king size is the preference as you can stretch out and there's plenty of room if you have young kids who like to sleep in bed with you." At over six feet wide, however, it's a big bed and you need a large room to put it in, so measure the space and the doorway to ensure you can get it inside. Super-king beds offer a further 21 centimetres but they're not a common purchase and, as such, it can be tricky finding sheets to fit.

budget

You can bag a new mattress for anything from a few hundred bucks to the price of a small car. There's always a place for a bargain but if you're going to be sleeping on it every night, you need to think of it as a long-term commitment. The rule of thumb is to find the best value for money and spend the most you can afford. Any number of factors can influence the cost including the mattress's size, type and the technology and innovations the bed features.

"Because of the importance of restorative sleep, it's paramount that we invest in the right sleep surface," says Amanda Balech, Harvey

Norman's national product and marketing manager, Bedding and Sleep Number (harveynorman.com.au). "It's comforting to know that sleeping on the right kind of mattress can dramatically improve sleep quality."

beneath the surface

The array of different mattress types on the market can seem baffling, but it all boils down to two basic types: spring (coil) and latex. Memory foam (viscoelastic) and water claim the runner-up positions. Within the spring category you'll find traditional continuous- or open-coil and pocket sprung, where the coils move independently and are recommended for reducing 'partner disturbance'. "The best way to find out what suits you is to talk to a trained sleep specialist in store, who will assess your needs and explore what type of support system and comfort option you need," says Peter.

top it off

Mattress toppers do what they say: they sit on top of the bed and offer an extra layer of comfort and support (as opposed to mattress protectors, which act as a barrier for stains and allergens). They're now a common purchase, so should you buy one with your new bed?

"No," says Amanda. "If you are investing in a new mattress then the chosen feel should be right for you. Mattress toppers are usually bought by people who want to give their current mattress a comfort boost." Adds Peter, "Mattress toppers can temporarily put the comfort back into an old bed but they're a short-term solution and can actually be counterproductive as they may mask issues with support."

testing, testing...

So you've made the decision to buy a new mattress. Here are Peter's tips for the big day. "Always buy on comfort. For this, you need to go in store. If you're buying a bed for two, both of you should be there at the same time. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes you can remove easily. Ask to try a range of firm, medium and soft mattresses then see how they feel. Don't be shy! Spend at least 10 minutes on each as it takes time for your body to adjust. Lie on your back and your side, and use a pillow. Tell the retailer about any special requirements as there are beds that are designed to help with everything from allergies and heat build-up to back, neck and hip pain. And ask about a guarantee."



OUT WITH THE OLD

Mattresses are among the biggest items put out for council collection and around 1.25 million of them end up in landfill every year. When you buy a new one, most stores will take your old one, but it ends up in the same place. Charities won't accept them for hygiene reasons, so what to do? A number of mattress recycling organisations have sprung up (yep) who will take it away then extract and repurpose the steel, wood and foam for a small fee. Try Mission Australia's mattress recycling service (softlanding. com.au) Harvey Norman is currently implementing a national initiative to team up with this program or Bed Collect (bedcollect.com.au) in Victoria.

TAKE CARE

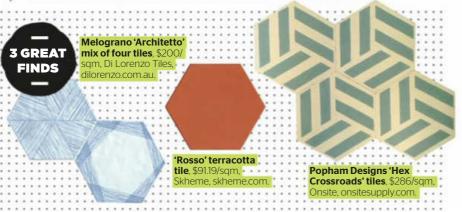
Jane Anthony from IKEA (ikea.com.au) has these tips to keep your mattress in good shape.

- 1. Turn it "At IKEA, we recommend you turn (or rotate if it's single-sided) your mattress every two weeks during the first three months of its life. After that, you should turn it about every two to three months. Turning a mattress ensures more even wear and helps to prolong its comfort."
- 2. Protect it "Complement your mattress with a mattress pad and/or mattress protector. This will extend the life of the mattress and make it more hygienic, as it's easier to remove and air. IKEA's mattress protectors can be machine washed at 60°C a temperature that kills dust mites."
- **3. Vacuum it** "Vacuuming the mattress helps to remove dust and mites."
- **4. Clean it** "If something is spilt and stains the mattress, use a mild soapy solution in cold water or upholstery cleaner. Apply water sparingly. Take care not to soak the mattress with water or any other liquid and avoid all chemicals."
- **5. Don't fold it** "This can damage the springs and materials inside. If you need to pass through a tight doorway, just flex it gently."
- **6. Don't jump on it!** "Mattresses are made to be slept on, and jumping or walking on it can damage the inner workings."
- **7. Replace it** "Even the best mattresses become less comfortable with age, and all mattresses accumulate dust and mites over the years. Change your mattress every eight to 10 years."





PATTERN PLAY Draw a sense of frivolity into your hard-working zone with the graphic design of the 'Raakel' bath towel, \$72, Marimekko, marimekko.com.



MY BATHROOM...



Melissa Bonney Director, The Design Hunter My bathroom is a place of... Rest and rejuvenation,

a place of solitude in a very busy house!

My favourite bathroom design luxury is...

Definitely a double sink and oversized vanity in an ensuite. I love that both people have their own "zone" it creates a little personal privacy in a shared space.

The one aspect of bathroom design people often overlook is... Niches. At The Design Hunter, we're big fans of having bath and shower niches to store all those necessary products. They're simple to include in the design phase, but not so simple if forgotten. You need a standard stud wall behind, and a decorative tile to finish it off.

In my dream bathroom I would have...

Some of Tiles Of Ezra's handmade tiles in muted earthy tones they're stunning!

For more info on Melissa's work,

visit thedesignhunter.com.au.







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mould into place

In keeping with its signature look of pared-back forms. Norm Architects based these 'Hat' lamps for Italian company Ex.t on traditional hat moulds. €132 each, ex-t.com.



dream team

Design studio Barber & Osgerby is the latest recruit to collaborate with Royal Doulton. The shapely 'Olio' range (jug, \$99.95) is the result. Visit royaldoulton.com.au.



MY KITCHEN...

Y STOKE

Amber **Clohesy** Director, The Woodsfolk and Down To The Woods

My kitchen is a place of... Constant

action. The drawers are crammed with so many gadgets and an endless array of pans. I love to cook sweets, my husband cooks up savoury dishes and our children are budding young chefs.

In my kitchen, I couldn't live without...

My pastel-pink KitchenAid mixer I use it so much. It's one of the only two appliances that live on our bench. The other is the espresso machine and I couldn't live without that either.

The three essential ingredients of a kitchen are... Quality appliances that do the job well, be it your oven, rangehood or dishwasher; generous overhead lights to illuminate your work surfaces; and room to move nobody likes to cook in a poky kitchen. Visit thewoodsfolk.com.au.



BENCH PRESS Both your reds and whites are covered in this under-bench Liebherr 'UWTes 1672' dual-zone wine cellar, POA, andico.com.au









For inspiring kitchen style ideas, visit insideout.com.au/renovations/kitchen.

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This month, we're on the lookout for living areas with personal style and an inviting feel. Start tagging and sharing shots with us and you could win this fantastic prize!



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This month, you could win a \$2000 gift card to spend on homewares, furniture, kitchen appliances, home entertainment and travel goods, thanks to Myer





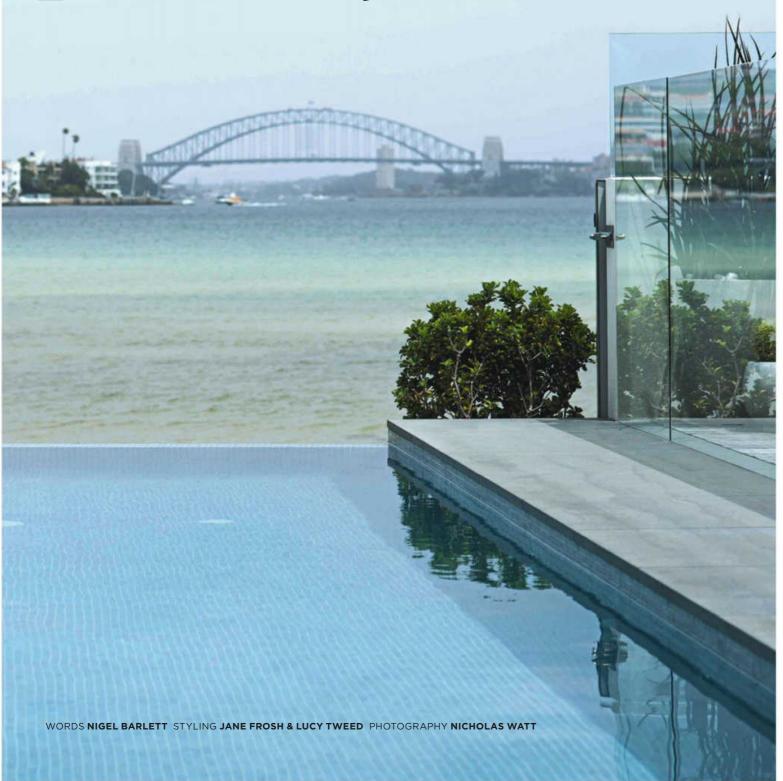


out



An incredible outlook was marred by glare and noise, but smart landscape design gives this garden its five-star tag

point of view





reaming of a home with views over Sydney Harbour? There's one thing you'll need to take into account: when the property faces due west, your garden will be almost impossible to sit in during the heat of the late-afternoon sun.

This was the problem facing the owners of a house in Rose Bay. Built in 2009, it has picture-perfect views of the Harbour Bridge that they couldn't make the most of on a summer's afternoon. So Matt Cantwell and his team at Secret Gardens (secretgardens.com.au) stepped in to create an outdoor area that would provide the owners with the shelter they needed. "They have a spectacular place, but at times it's just too hot and bright to sit at the water's edge and take in the harbour," says Matt.

There was already a courtyard that the owners could retreat to, but they wanted more peace and quiet – protection from the noise of neighbouring properties, nearby construction and boats, ferries and so on. "All the noise was echoing between the building lines," says Matt.

The solution was to renovate the courtyard, adding shade and sound absorption, and create design features for relaxing and entertaining. The most prominent of these is an entertaining alcove. Matt and landscape designer Robert Finnie worked with an acoustic engineer, who came up with a targeted approach. "Most people think a 1.8-metre wall would reduce noise but it does very little, and a tall hedge won't keep out noise either," says Matt. Instead, he had the alcove wall built to a height of 3.8 metres, and clad it with soundproofing panels of perforated cement sheeting lined with a sponge-like polyester insulation. This reduces noise from the other side and absorbs sound bouncing from the harbour and elsewhere.

The alcove features a built-in barbecue, with a raised planter above so the bedrooms have a green outlook. The barbecue rangehood passes up through the planter, while an electric awning extends out from beneath. The awning offers shade from the belting summer sun and retains heat in winter. A coffee table in front of built-in seating has a dual purpose: lift off the lid and it's a firepit - "great for marshmallows!" says Matt. Both the barbecue benchtops and the coffee table/firepit are made from brushed Basaltina stone which, along with the bluestone paving, complement the architecture of the house.

With that practical issue dealt with, Matt turned his attention to the greening of the adjacent wall. "The owners wanted to give it a dramatic look. It's essentially a living artwork," says Matt. "Whenever I design any garden, whether it's on the wall or the ground, I treat flowers as a bonus rather than the main event. I think more about foliage contrasts through variation in shape, size, colour and texture." The exception is Brazilian walking iris, *Neomarica gracilis*, which is long and grass-like with white-and-purple flowers. "It's quite spectacular and very exotic looking," says Matt. Aside from that, there are blue chalk sticks, *Senecio serpens*, along the top of the wall - one of the stand-out plants according to Matt. Among others, *Zoysia tenuifolia* or Korean velvet grass, *Westringia fruticosa* and *Philodendron* 'Xanadu' with its interesting leaf shape.

Integral to the wall is a mirrored water feature, which creates a fascinating play of light. "You get a lovely sparkle as the sun is going down," says Matt. "With most other water-wall surfaces, such as copper or stainless steel, you can barely see the water moving. With a mirror, the water looks like it's going down and up as well – it's quite bizarre."

With such an inviting courtyard, it may be tempting never to venture far, but the waterfront has its own charms. By the harbour, an infinity pool is the perfect spot for catching some rays. It's fair to say, as far as outdoor spaces are concerned, the owners have a place in the sun.











I/Manicured pittosporum 'Miss Muffet' complements the closely cropped lawn. The large white planter is a crisp addition to the more structured section of the garden by the pool.

Softer and more relaxed foliage from the tropical Alpinia nutans beckons guests upwards to the courtyard area. The stairs are bordered with a garden bed, which defines this passageway.

Theatrical spears of the native Doryanthes palmeri make a feature of the white wall. This hardy species is well suited to windy climates due to the strength of the pointed leaves fantastic for coastal gardens.

An undercover barbecue area gains its roof from a garden bed, so the overlooking bedrooms benefit from a green view. This alcove is well protected from all the elements, including the noise of the harbour, as Matt soundproofed the wall.



BUDGET BREAKDOWN

open secret

Want an all-weather garden for every season? This secluded space ticks all the boxes with its clever design elements

WORDS FIONA JOY PHOTOGRAPHY BRIGID ARNOTT

Cabana This built structure is at the lower end of a waterfront garden on the NSW Central Coast and offers a bathroom and basic kitchen facilities. "It's all about the open space and the outlook to the garden and water," says garden designer Michael Cooke (michaelcooke.com.au). Architect Karen Burke (karenburkearchitect.com.au) designed the canopy as a cantilevered section of the roof.

The fascia material is Alucobond (alucobond.com.au) and the spotted gum plywood lining was custom made for a continuous grain.

Lighting This garden gets it right illuminating the space, as well as enhancing the zone's calm feel. Recessed downlights are set in pairs 20mm apart, and the spotlights are adjustable. 'Panorama Vaucluse' LED downlight, from \$160 each, and 'Panorama Noosa' LED spot, from \$120 each, Tovo Lighting, tovolighting.com.au.

Stone wall This striking wall serves a practical purpose, creating an effective screen from the house next door. It also brings a timeless quality and was created by local stonemason Michael Doolan. The hand-cut stone is a locally sourced sandstone ballast, quarry run in colour, and laid in a random rubble style as a 130mm-thick veneer over concrete-reinforced besser blocks.

Sandstone, from \$700/sqm (with many variables), Michael Doolan Stonemasons, 0416 189 465, facebook.com/mdstonemasons.

Barbecue No outdoor entertaining space would be complete without a barbie. Everdure 'Ashburton eSee' six-burner barbecue, \$1699, Harvey Norman, harveynorman.com.au.

Fireplace An outdoor fireplace is the ideal platform to create the ambience in an entertaining area. "We use fireplaces rather than the more common fire pit in many

of our gardens to add character, as well as warmth," says designer Michael. This one is lined internally with heat-resistant fire bricks to a custom design. **An '850' wood-burning fireplace with screen and log pan starts at \$2615, from Jetmaster, jetmaster.com.au.**

Chairs The 'Butterfly' chair is an elegant and portable design. Popular now in fabric, it was originally made in leather, which weathers beautifully. Made-to-order leather 'Butterfly' chair, from \$700 each, The Hide You Seek, hideyouseek.com.

Pavers Limestone is a sedimentary rock, known for its durability and range of colours, making it suitable for outdoor areas. Try 600mm x 600mm x 16mm limestone pavers in Dijon, \$81.95/sqm, from Amber, ambertiles.com.au.

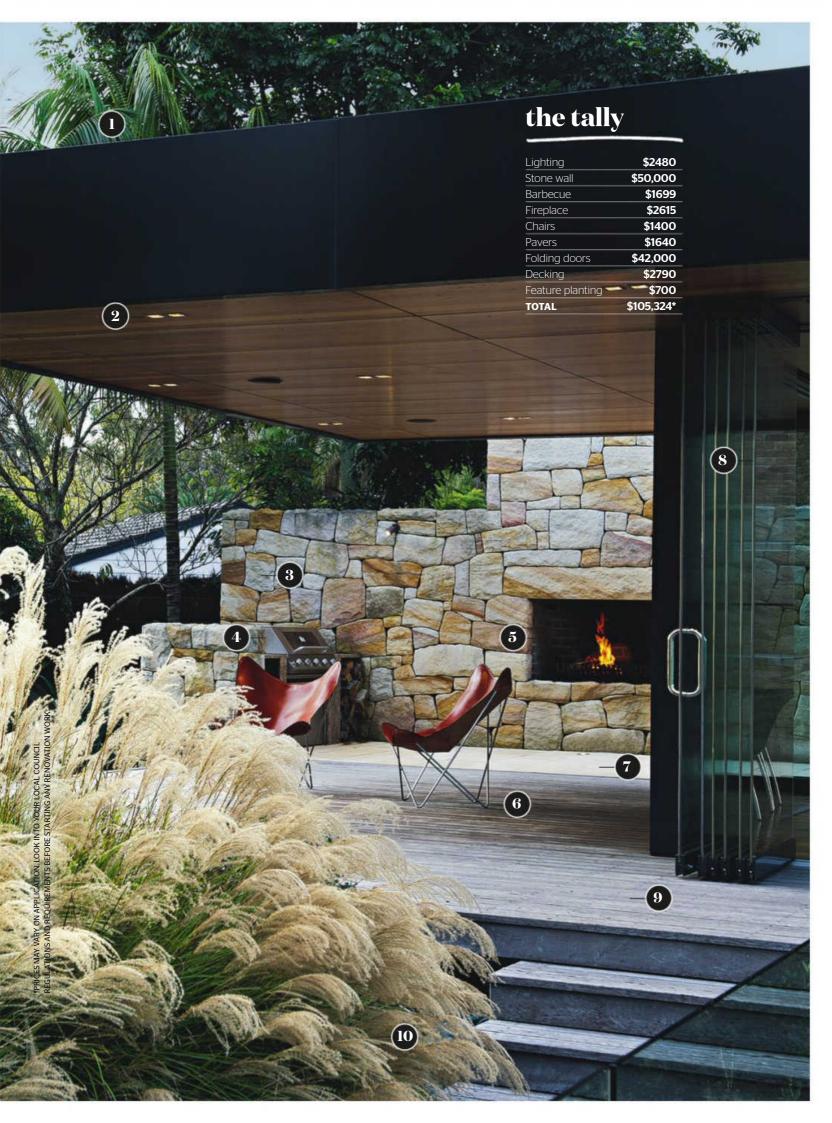
Folding doors Bi-fold glass doors allow a seamless flow from inside to out.

Top-hung frameless 15mm toughened-glass door system, approx 2.7m x 11m, from \$42,000 installed, through Sublime Aluminium, sublimealuminium.com.au.

Decking Native Australian hardwoods, such as this spotted gum, are a great choice for decking because of their high density, toughness and durability. Builder Brad Paterson (patersonbuilders.com.au) installed the decking, and oversaw the build of the entertaining cabana. Visit your local timber merchant or try spotted gum hardwood decking, 140mm x 25mm, \$16.25/lineal metre, Barrenjoey Timber, barrenjoeytimber.com.au.

Feature planting A clumping, ornamental grass will provide a soft yet dynamic element. This *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Gracillimus', known as maiden grass, grows to more than two metres high and is low maintenance year-round. Maiden grass is available sporadically, \$10/10cm plant, Lambley Nursery, lambley.com.au.





what's your style? outdoor zone

Make the most of your garden with a flexible entertaining area. Here



SUNKEN RETREAT A hard-working garden ready for fun, function and relaxation

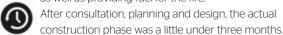
Garden designer: Dean Herald at Rolling Stone Landscapes (rollingstonelandscapes.com).

Style of project: A year-round outdoor entertaining paradise.

A few steps down from the home's outdoor kitchen, this sunken lounge is part of a multi-zoned garden in the Sydney suburb of Gordon. The change in levels ensures a feeling of privacy and defined spaces. For year-round use and comfort, an integrated wood-burning fireplace sits within a masonry wall clad with stacked stone panels. Forming the seating is a rendered, painted masonry structure topped with merbau timber, which matches the surrounding decking. To soften the lines, a Japanese box hedge grows behind the seating. Lighting comes from the adjacent outdoor kitchen area, with a spike light highlighting the tree on the left.



Recessed into the eye-catching stone-panel clad wall, the boxed-in log stack creates a decorative feature, as well as providing fuel for the fire.





PRIVATE ESCAPE This cabana at the end of the backyard offers a calm sunny spot

Architect: David Smyth at Smyth & Smyth (smythandsmyth.com.au). **Style of project:** A space that incorporates a lawn, pool and covered area that offers shade and privacy from neighbours.

This backyard pavilion has been built with privacy in mind. With this design, the owners enjoy a screened area and shade on a hot day. The space functions as a multi-use spot from poolside lounging to dining, its generous floor space easily adapted depending on the occasion. To facilitate the cantilevered roof and keep the corner open to the pool, a steel post supports a massive steel beam across the top. **Screening out** the neighbouring house is a portion of the back wall constructed from concrete blocks. The rest of the boundary is comprised of spotted gum posts, which complement the decking in the same timber variety.



The boundary's spotted-gum upright posts are carefully spaced to ensure privacy at close quarters. From the house though, the slimline roof design doesn't obstruct the view. The pavilion was built as a small part of a whole house renovation that took about a year to complete.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (1) DANNY KILDARE. (2) MARCUS CLINTON. (3) ANGUS MARTIN. (4) LAUREN BAMFORD

are four design-savvy options WORDS FIONA JOY



3 COVERED DINING ZONE The perfect place to enjoy meals alfresco and keep an eye on the kids

Landscape architect: Luke Jones at Larc Collective (larccollective. com), working with Blueprint Architects (blueprintarchitects.com.au). **Style of project:** A covered deck area that takes in city views.

This period home in Brisbane's New Farm was reconfigured during a major renovation with bedrooms at the front and the living/entertaining zone at the back. The covered deck area extends straight off the kitchen, divided by bi-fold doors, creating an all-weather space where the owners can host guests while watching the children playing on the lawn and in the pool. In keeping with the sleek but subdued palette, the matching timber on the deck and ceiling is a hardwood treated with a Cutek clear-oil finish. Sash windows on the left-hand side open up to make the most of cross breezes.



A laser-cut steel trellis with a rustic patina sits on the fence, the ideal spot for passionfruit to grow.

Access was easy and, although the owners needed to work with heritage conditions, the process was smooth. The total build time was about eight weeks.



A clever multi-purpose space where every square metre counts

Architect: Emilio Fuscaldo, Nest Architects (nestarchitects.com.au). **Style of project:** A petite courtyard at the back of a traditional workers' cottage in Victoria.

The back of this North Fitzroy home was once a dodgy 1980s nightmare: damp, cold and possum infested. Architect Emilio Fuscaldo designed this replacement, a small open living/dining area with large steel doors that welcome the outlook of the north-facing backyard. **The home's exterior** features silvertop ash, used in a 'shiplap' design where the boards overlap. A slender picture window looks out onto the Boston ivy-covered brick wall; in summer, the foliage keeps the space shady while in winter, the sun warms up the bricks and reflects warmth into the house. Bluestone pavers make the entertaining zone easy to clean, with a turfed garden bed a soft touch.



Instead of bi-folds or sliders, the huge glass doors were custom designed to maximise the garden view and let natural light flow into the home.

The construction phase of this renovation project

lasted about nine months.



what's your style?

outdoor zone



DECKING

Merbau is naturally oily with a high tannin content, making it durable and resistant to weathering and decay. KD select-grade merbau **decking** (90mm x 19mm), \$4.89/lineal metre, Bunnings Warehouse, bunnings.com.au.



A stone wall makes for a dramatic backdrop and a masonry wall clad with stacked stone panels is a lightweight, long-lasting and more affordable option. Try 'Stacked Stone' wall panel (600mm x 1200mm), from \$110 each, Texture Panels, texturepanels.com.au.



HEDGING

Buxus is native to Japan and due to its hardiness and glossy foliage, the most common hedging grown in Australian gardens. **Japanese box plant**, \$7.95/14cm pot, Plant World, plantworld.com.au.



FIREPLACE

Turn your outdoor space into a year-round retreat with a wood-burning fireplace. 'A900' insulated **open wood fire**, from \$3060, Heatmaster, heatmaster.com.au.

key to success

The sunken lounge area complete with a fireplace creates an all-weather living zone for the family to use year-round



key to success

A chic mix of outdoor-friendly materials tough concrete and timber gives this space its simple but smart look

CHAIRS

Portable, stackable and versatile, the 'PS Vågö' **chair** (\$39.99) is great for outdoor areas. It's also available in a kids' size ('Bunsö', \$19.99), IKEA, ikea.com.au.

CONCRETE

Known as 'off-form' concrete, the pattern is made by the plywood formwork which is removed once the concrete has dried, leaving a moulded look. The holes are where the formwork is tied together.

TURF

'Sir Walter' buffalo turf (stenotaphrum secundatum)
handles sun, shade and high traffic.
As lawns go, it requires minimal maintenance. 'Sir Walter' turf, \$8/sqm, Sydney Lawn & Turf Supplies, sydneylawnandturf.com.au.



DECKING

Spotted gum ticks all the boxes for strength, durability and good looks. Spotted gum **decking** (86mm x 19mm), \$5.90/ lineal metre, Masters Home Improvement, masters.com.au.



LASER-CUT SCREEN

Laser-cut Corten steel is an architectural-grade steel used for screens and garden sculptures. The copper content helps in the development of a unique patina. Laser-cut metal screen, \$285/ 3000mm x 1500mm sheet, Grand Ideas, grandideas.com.au. Or you can try a more ornate version such as the 'Banksia Nut' screen, \$2190/ 200mm x 2400mm, Entanglements entanglements.com.au.

key to success The timber and steel elements create a seamless transition between the indoors and out





CEILING FAN

Circulate the air on a warm day and keep the mozzies moving at night. 'Haiku 60' extended mount fan, \$995, Big Ass Fans, bigassfans.com.au.

WOOD-PROTECTION OIL

Wood-protection oil minimises warping and splitting, and keeps timber looking good. Cutek 'CD50' is a clear finish with a choice of 10 tints that enhance a natural look. 'CD50' oil, from \$252.89/10L, Cutek, cutek.com.au.



Parthenocissus tricuspidata is a non-destructive deciduous climber, so it's great for covering large spaces. Boston ivy plant, \$10.95/ 14cm pot, Online Plants Melbourne, onlineplants melbourne.com.au.

LIGHT

Enjoy the stars with a light that comes on only when you need it. Brilliant 'Avalon' 6W LED security **flood** light, \$57.37, Bunnings Warehouse, bunnings. com.au.

PAVING

Cut from volcanic rock, Victorian bluestone is extremely dense and hard-wearing. Bluestone paver, from \$83/sqm, Eco Outdoor, ecooutdoor.com.au.

key to success SUCCULENTS

Clean-lined design keeps this small space neat and tidy, with thoughtful planting softening the boundaries

With a dense mat of

compact foliage, Senecio serpens or blue chalk sticks is a popular choice for groundcover. Blue chalk sticks plant, \$5.50/ small pot, The Succulent Garden, the succulent garden.com.au.



Designed for French bistros, the Tolix is an outdoor classic. Tolix 'Tabouret' stool, \$395, Thonet, thonet.com.au.







Q+A WITH...



Indira Naidoo Urban garden enthusiast and author

be... A space for contemplation or simulation. What should you consider when planting produce in a small garden? Assess your light conditions and which direction the sun is coming from. Put lettuce and spinach in the cooler parts of your garden and edibles that need full sun, such as tomatoes, capsicums and citrus, in the warmer sections. Your new book is about urban community gardens - what stood out for you? I found it so inspiring documenting how communities were growing their own food on verges, or digging up old tennis courts. It proved to me that finding spaces to grow food in the city is limited only by your imagination. The Edible City (\$45, Penguin) is out now.



TOGRAPHY: (PORTRAIT) ALAN BENSC



ATURAL STATE Treat your hands to

a good scrub with this gardener soap and nail brush set, NZ\$19, from paperplanestore.com.

For inspiring outdoor living ideas, visit insideout.com.au/renovations/outdoors-pool.

extras

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR YOU AND YOUR HOME



HARVEY NORMAN Get your beauty sleep in style with the 'Ayre' queen bed, priced at \$1899, from Harvey Norman. For a statement piece that perfectly suits your bedroom, the look-at-me upholstered headboard with button detailing can be customised with your choice of fabric. Just add crisp, patterned bedlinen to complete the look, such as the 'Comme White' cotton sateen set by Designers Choice as seen here. For a further look at the range, visit

harveynorman.com.au



MARIMEKKO From fashionistas to decorators, Marimekko is a favourite of those who gravitate towards bold, graphic prints for their wardrobe and interiors. 'Mindscapes', Marimekko's autumn/winter 2015 collection, is inspired by urban architecture and nature. This range features new creative director Anna Teurnell's involvement - the spring/summer 2016 collection will be the first created entirely under her lead. For more information on the collection, visit marimekko.com



BUNNINGS WAREHOUSE Light up your world with an on-trend concrete pendant lamp, like this Home Design 'Bazzano' pendant light, \$59. The bold industrial-style light is a neutral grey with a pop of lush gold inside and has a timeless black and white cloth-covered suspension cable. Try hanging three pendant lights in a row over a kitchen island bench or dining table for maximum impact, or suspend them at different heights in the living area. For more information, visit bunnings.com.au



VITAMIX Good things do come in small packages. Consider the compact Vitamix S3O your own personal blender. It comes with the 600ml blend-and-go beverage bottle with a flip-top lid so you can enjoy a smoothie when you're dashing out the door, on the drive to work or once you get to your desk. The 1.2L blending jug is the ideal size for soups, sauces, dips, frozen desserts and more. The Vitamix S3O is \$845 for the coloured model; \$895 for stainless steel. For details, visit **vitamix.com.au**



SMEG If it's time to unleash your inner domestic goddess, try baking up a storm the easy way with the award-winning Smeg '50s style stand mixer. Sturdy and stylish, the 800-watt direct drive motor makes light work of everything from whipping eggwhites to mixing the heaviest of bread or pizza dough. Referring to the instruction manual could be a thing of the past with the handy quick-guide symbols. For more details and to see the full collection, visit **smeg50style.com.au**



SHEETS ON THE LINE Channelling a childhood memory of running through sheets drying on the clothesline is behind the name of bedlinen company Sheets on the Line. The Australian-owned brand has a luxe range of plain and printed 100 per cent organic cotton and Belgian linen pillowcases, sheets and quilts (pictured above is bedlinen in 'Cloud'; quilt cover set from \$289.95, sheet set from \$399.95), as well as homewares and more. For details, visit sheetsontheline.com.au



sunny side up

Serve up your own cafe-style weekend brunch at home with these easy, delish recipes from The Boathouse

RECIPES TOM EADIE FOOD STYLING KIRSTEN JENKINS PHOTOGRAPHY MIKE NEWLING



runch with friends is one of life's great pleasures.
From fresh fruits to a decadent banana bread to top produce on charred toast, it's one of those meals that's best kept simple but stylish. Not surprisingly, more and more cafes are expanding the breakfast window, and one in particular that's made brunch its signature is The Boathouse on Sydney's North Shore.

Andrew Goldsmith and Pip Robb first opened The Boathouse Palm Beach in 2008, then teamed up with nutritionist Michele Chevalley Hedge to open The Boathouse Balmoral Beach (pictured) in 2013. Both venues, now joined by a third on Shelly Beach, are known for a casual beachy aesthetic the perfect foil for their five-star waterfront locations. You can take a leaf out of their book by entertaining your friends with these tasty dishes on the weekend, without the stress of being in the kitchen too long. The key is buying fresh, ripe ingredients, then assembling and plating them up in a way that's beautiful. For more information on The Boathouse Balmoral Beach, visit theboathousebb.com.au.















granola

You'll need to begin this recipe a day ahead.

SERVES 4 **PREPARATION TIME** 25 minutes (+ soaking) **COOKING TIME** 3 hours 30 minutes

125g sunflower seeds

125g pumpkin seeds

150g walnuts

125g almonds

1 Granny Smith apple

1 tbsp lemon juice

200g rolled oats

75g cranberries

250g honey

1 tbsp ground cinnamon

½ tsp ground nutmeg

Milk, yoghurt and fresh seasonal fruit, to serve

- 1. Combine sunflower and pumpkin seeds, walnuts and almonds in a bowl or container. Cover with cold water, cover with plastic wrap and set aside to soak for 12 hours. Drain well, spread on a tray lined with kitchen paper, and set aside to dry well.
- **2.** Preheat oven to 100°C. Peel apple, core, cut into small pieces then toss with lemon juice. Combine with nuts, seeds, oats, cranberries in a bowl and stir to combine.
- **3.** Heat honey in a small saucepan over medium heat until warm. Add spices then stir to combine. Pour over nut mixture and stir to combine. Spread on two trays lined with baking paper and bake for 3.5 hours, stirring occasionally, until golden and dry. Set aside to cool then store in an airtight container. Serve with milk, yoghurt and fruit.

banana bread

SERVES 8

PREPARATION TIME 15 minutes **COOKING TIME** 55 minutes

375g overripe bananas (about 3 bananas)

225g brown sugar

11/2 tsp vanilla essence

2 eggs

250g plain flour

1½ tsp bicarbonate of soda

125ml (½ cup) milk

125ml (½ cup) olive oil

1 tbsp shredded coconut

Crushed almonds, for topping

Butter, yoghurt and apple sauce, to serve

- **1.** Preheat oven to 180°C. Combine banana, sugar and vanilla in the bowl of an electric mixer with the paddle attachment, and beat to combine. Add eggs, one at a time, until incorporated. Sift over flour and bicarb and beat to combine. Add milk, oil and coconut and beat until just combined.
- **2.** Spoon into a 11cm x 21cm x 6cm loaf tin lined with baking paper. Top with crushed almonds. Bake for 50 55 minutes until golden and a skewer comes out cleanly cover with foil if colouring too quickly. Set aside to cool in tin for 15 minutes, then carefully turn out onto a rack and cool completely. Serve with butter and yoghurt and apple sauce.

The Boathouse Balmoral Beach isn't just a cafe. You can buy the striped water cups (centre left) the eatery uses, as well as other selected homewares and gifts. The Boathouse is known for its relaxed, rustic and beachy vibe with ceramic platters from Indonesia (top right) and vibrant floral displays (bottom left). Lobster pots are also available to purchase and are used as light fittings in the cafe (next page, top right). When entertaining at home, experiment with a combination of fresh blooms, nautical-striped accessories, timber breadboards and ceramic plates in sky blue and white.





eugalo farm eggs

SERVES 4 PREPARATION TIME 25 minutes

COOKING TIME 30 minutes

"Eugalo Farm supplies us with free-range organic eggs, upwards of 3000 each week" - Tom Eadie, executive chef, The Boathouse

375ml (1½ cups) vegetable stock

1 cup short-grain brown rice

Vegetable oil

1 garlic clove, finely chopped

4 sprigs lemon thyme, finely chopped

½ long red chilli, finely chopped

10 Swiss brown mushrooms, thinly sliced

3 leaves rainbow chard (large stem removed), thinly sliced

 $\frac{1}{2}$ bunch English spinach, trimmed, thinly sliced

Juice of 1/2 lemon

1 tbsp butter

8 eggs

Chilli jam and watercress, to serve

Egg crumb

¼ cup rye breadcrumbs, toasted

2 tbsp flat-leaf parsley, chopped

1 tbsp sumac

1 tbsp each white and black toasted sesame seeds

Egg wash

2 eggs

1 tbsp water

1. Combine stock and rice in a saucepan over medium heat, bring to a simmer, cover, reduce heat and cook for 20-25 minutes until

liquid is absorbed and rice is tender. Set aside, covered, to steam.

- 2. For the egg crumb, combine ingredients in a bowl then set aside.
- **3.** Heat oil in a frying pan over medium heat. Add garlic, thyme and chilli and stir to combine. Add mushrooms and sauté for 23 minutes until mushrooms are golden. Add greens and stir to combine. Stir through rice, lemon juice, butter, season to taste and keep warm.
- 4. Poach eggs in simmering water to desired cooking stage. Set aside.
- **5.** For the egg wash, whisk eggs with water until combined. Dip poached eggs in the egg wash and then carefully in the crumb mixture to coat. Using a slotted spoon, carefully deep-fry each egg in hot oil for 10-20 seconds until golden brown.
- **6.** Transfer rice to serving bowls, top with egg, chilli jam and garnish with watercress. Serve hot.

avocado toast

SERVES 4 **PREPARATION TIME** 10 minutes **COOKING TIME** 4 minutes

3 ripe avocados, coarsely chopped

Juice of 1 lemon

- 4 thick slices rye sourdough
- 4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil, plus extra to serve
- 2 large heirloom tomatoes, sliced
- 4 tbsp goat's curd
- 16 basil leaves, finely chopped
- **1.** Combine avocado and lemon in a bowl, season to taste and crush with a fork to desired consistency.
- **2.** Heat a frypan over medium-high heat, drizzle bread with oil and toast, turning once, until charred. Spread with avocado mixture and top with tomato, curd and basil. Season, drizzle with a little oil and serve.











local icon

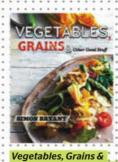
You can enjoy a cherry jam lamington or pavlova inspired by the architecture at Bennelong. It's located at the Sydney Opera House and designed by Tonkin Zulaikha Greer. Call (O2) 9240 8000.

ASIAN TWIST Ferrero Rocher spring rolls and roasted banana panna cotta hit sweet notes at Adelaide's Kangkong bar: kangkong.com.au.



murdochbooks.com.au.

My New Roots,



Other Good Stuff \$39.99 _antern/Penguin Books, penguin.com.au.

Q+A WITH...



Éric Kayser Author and baker

Do vou recall early baking experiences? I remember doing

my first apple pie. It was so nice, because I could take the dough, put apple in, put it in the oven. This was my first souvenir.

Baking is a very precise act - did anything go wrong while you were creating The Larousse Book of Bread? In this book, we gave the recipes to a lady in the kitchen, who tried them all. With some, she made a mistake and we put all the mistakes in the book there are three or four pages about how you can learn from them. It's similar to how I can spend six months or a year trying to adjust a recipe.

It's so easy to buy a pastry or loaf from a shop, so what's the appeal of baking? People see that they can do something very beautiful with their hands. As we say in France, "When you work with your hands, your brain is free." The Larousse Book of Bread (\$49.95, Phaidon) is out now.



Their vibrant cookbook, Falafel For





3 GREAT

FINDS

stockists

Here are all the numbers and websites you need to get shopping! Don't be misled by suppliers listing Sydney or Melbourne phone numbers – they are often head offices or distributors who can find a retailer in your area

a-c

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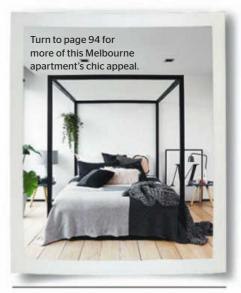
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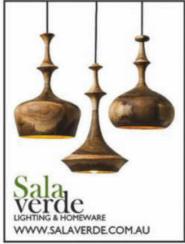




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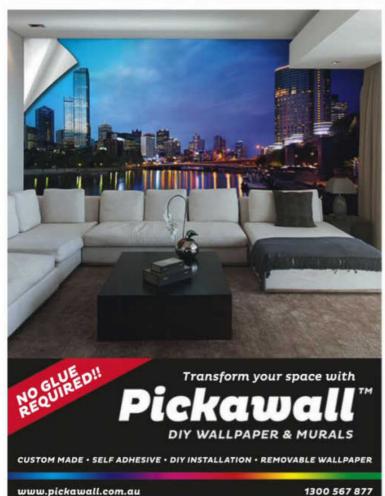




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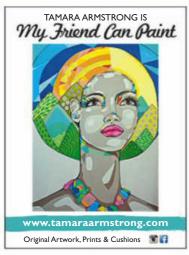
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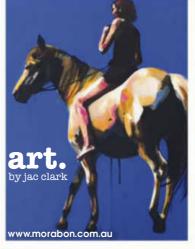
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Ask Megsy

Our Agony Aunt Meg Mason dishes out somewhat questionable style and decorating advice to would-be DIY renovators

A friend has started an interiors blog and asked if she could feature my house. I said yes, but I'm now worried it will look terrible.

Ien Erskineville NSW

ecause it absolutely will! Although it will be nothing to do with your dazzling personal style (evident even in your penmanship and taste in agony aunts), but because of the mysterious forces that govern non-professional interiors photography.

The dark truth is, no matter how beautiful or expensive your wares, without the white wizardry of industry professionals, they will "read" on screen like a dusty sh*tshow of junk sitting on a chipped tray. Paintings that look straight on the wall appear vertiginously crooked on screen, new sofas sag and – not a word of a lie – I've seen what was in real life, a ceramic vase of natives beside Mario Testino's *Portraits* mutate before the camera into a pump dispenser of sorbolene beside an overflowing ashtray. Jen... *no-one in that house even smoked*. You don't know what you're getting yourself into and it's unwise to dabble, without the mystical counter-arts of a leading stylist.

If you can't wriggle out of it – with a quickie text or by faking your own death – do what I do, which is live in a permanent state of blog readiness. A sort of "crouching tiger, hidden blogger" stance of raised awareness through rigid personal discipline.

I've been doing it for so long now that, like Victoria Beckham and her calorie intake, it almost seems normal to me. For the uninitiated though, it's this:

None of your appliances can be plugged in, because cords are enemy number one to attractive vignettes. Best to saw them off at the base and get used to toast that is still frozen bread. My laptop, jauntily placed on a repurposed trestle beside an on-trend fern, hasn't had battery power for years and when I do type on it, it's in childish mime of someone playing offices. That's on days I imagine they'll want me in the shot. The rest of the time, I just sit very still trying not to move anything, or micro nap unattractively. Because since I made my bed back in '09 and happened to land the pillows in an especially photogenic arrangement, I've been sleeping on the floor. But it's fine really. I purchased a bushman's bivvy from the army surplus and simply roll it up each morning and take it



straight out to the car, which is also where I store any foodstuffs that aren't expensive cans of passata.

It can be lonely of course, this domestic hyper-vigilance, since you can't have friends over, obviously – far too likely they'll touch something. Or worse, Instagram their own unfiltered happy snap of you frantically replenishing the pyramid of tinned toms that they mistakenly thought were "for eating".

My bookshelf is currently arranged by colour, but I'm looking for a fresh new way to organise books. Any suggestions?

Mandy, Herston, Qld

You could try alphabetical, topical or descending by height, but my personal favourite is arranging by fearful literary prejudice. Which means, anything you actually like to read – the Grishams, sunscreen-stained Picoults and anything in a trilogy – gets shoved spine-backwards behind the Woolfs, Waughs and vintage Penguins you purchased as a job lot for aesthetic reasons.

K

revive the... joke apron A forgotten objet ripe for resurgence

When experts talk about a crisis in modern gender roles, we're fairly sure they're talking about the fact that, when barbecuing, men no longer feel empowered to wear a novelty apron with a slightly offensive slogan or an entire mid-section of a bikini model/Michaelangelo's *David* printed on it. High five, feminism.



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